

Perry heads back to GB

Preview begins
on page 8



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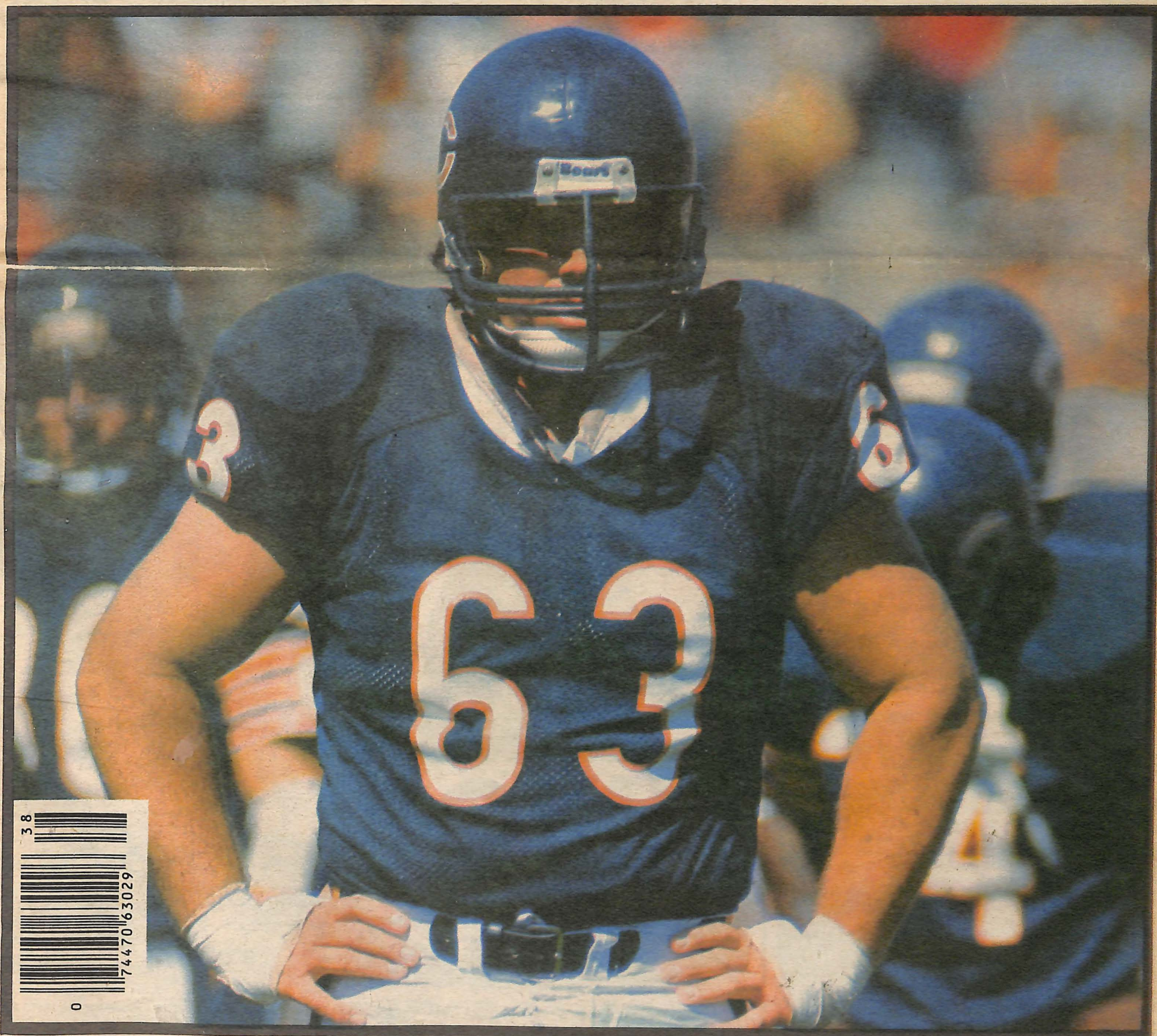
BEAR REPORT

A NEWSPAPER DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE CHICAGO BEARS AND THE NFL.

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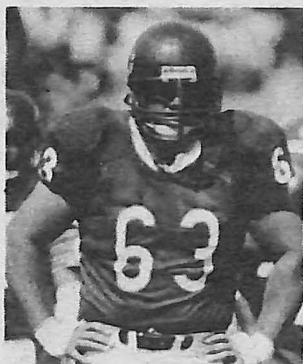




A newspaper devoted exclusively
to the Chicago Bears and the NFL
Vol. 11, No. 8 September 22, 1986

On the cover...

Jay Hilgenberg is leading
the offense this year from
his center position. (Bear
Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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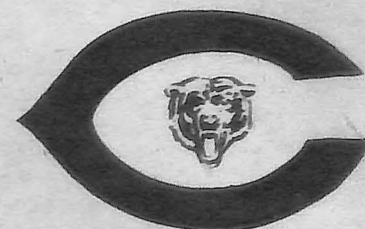
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Commentary



By
Doug
Buffone



Bear bait catches another fish

The Philadelphia game was supposed to be a minnow, but it turned out to be shark. In any case, put it in the freezer. It's over.

The Bears got the win over Philadelphia, which was a must for Bears coach Mike Ditka. But more importantly, it put the Bears in first place in their division with a 2-0 record.

Four important things came out of the game. The first was that Ditka left quarterback Mike Tomczak in the game despite the interceptions he threw early in the game.

The game was important for Ditka, but he was able to set aside that obsession of beating Buddy Ryan and remember that it would be better in the long run to leave Tomczak in the game. As the coach, it showed Ditka had confidence in Tomczak. That did a lot for Tomczak and it will pay dividends over the course of the season.

If Ditka would have pulled Tomczak, the young quarterback's confidence would have been destroyed. He probably wouldn't have believed in himself the rest of the season, and he wouldn't have been an asset to the team.

Secondly, they can talk about the defense all they want. They did the job holding Philadelphia to only 10 points. They held Jaworski, and the Eagles had virtually no running game.

And, of course, the turnovers the defense and special teams created won the game in the end for the Bears.

Third, the offense proved it can still run the ball. When they grinded it out it showed. You can't say enough about Walter Payton. The guy was unstoppable while on his way to a 177-yard rushing game.

And you have to give credit to the line for some of that yardage. They did a great job pulling and played a hell of a game.

The fourth and most important point to come out of the game is that you have to forget about last year. The Bears right now are not as good as they were when they won the Super Bowl. And that's how they should be.

Teams develop through the year. They should never get to their best until the end of the year. It's a simple concept called peaking.

Everyone wants them to start at their peak. But that's totally impossible. It's like painting a picture. You don't know how good it will look until it's finished. It's the same thing with a football team. You don't know how good it is until the season is over.

There's been too much emphasis on the past. The best way to look at the Bears is to forget last year. It's too early in the season to start comparing this year's team with last year's champions.

The Bears are 2-0 so far this season, and that's the key. During the course of the year, the Bears may develop a different personality from last year. But the goal is still the same. Win.

And don't worry about the four field goals Kevin Butler missed. Sunday, Butler had a hard day. But at the end, he had his shot and came through. Before that, the defense came through and was able to pick him up.

It's a slow climb to the top, but the Bears are well on their way.



Buddy Ryan was not a popular guy at Soldier Field Sunday, as this fan showed during the game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Payton, defense come to Tomczak's rescue

By Michael Polzin
Managing Editor

When new starting quarterback Mike Tomczak couldn't pass the Bears to any points, Chicago went back to its old way of doing things.

Walter Payton ran loose on the field, and the defense came up with the big plays to give the Bears a 13-10 win over Philadelphia Sunday at Soldier Field in sudden death.

The first half must have seemed like a nightmare to Tomczak, who was just six for 12 in the half with two costly interceptions that kept the Bears from scoring.

But Payton and the defense took over as leaders in the second half and set the stage for Kevin Butler's 23-yard field goal that won the game in overtime.

"I think the only line you look at is the bottom line, and we won the game. I'm elated about that," said Bears coach Mike Ditka. "I don't think we could rush the ball any better than we did. I thought we ran it down their throats."

More precisely, Payton ran it down the Eagles' throats for 177 yards and almost single-handedly kept the offense moving. In the third quarter, Payton surpassed the 15,000-yard mark in career rushing. But even so, had it not been for some big plays turned in by the defense Ditka might not have gotten his win over Buddy Ryan that he so desperately wanted.

Defense gets Bears moving

The defense started Chicago's turnaround when Dan Hampton recovered a fumble forced by Richard Dent at the Eagles' 35-yard line in the third quarter.

Payton then ran the ball 17 yards on five carries and scored the touchdown, the 100th rushing touchdown of his career, for a 7-3 Chicago lead.

The Bear defense started Chicago's next scoring drive when Dave Duerson, playing like he personally had something to show to Ryan, intercepted a pass and returned it to the Philadelphia 30-yard line.

"I think Duerson would like to prove to people who are on other teams that he's a good football player," Ditka said. "He is, and some people thought he never was or



Walter Payton had a record-breaking day against the Eagles Sunday, rushing for the 15,000-yard career mark and scoring the 100th rushing touchdown of his career. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

would be." Ditka, of course, was referring to Ryan.

"You definitely want to play well in front of your old friends and coaches," Duerson said. "And I just had that in mind all week. My desire was extremely high this week."

An 18-yard run by Payton moved the ball to the six-yard line, but on a fourth and one Ditka elected to try the field goal, which Butler made from 23 yards out for a 10-3 Chicago lead with 2:16 left in the third quarter.

The Eagles tied the score on their first possession of the fourth quarter on a 26-yard pass from Ron Jaworski to Mike Quick. But neither team could break the tie despite a flurry of big plays in the last 1:14 of regulation.

Richardson makes two interceptions

Mike Richardson started the excitement by intercepting a pass by the Eagles' Matt Cavanaugh. But Richardson didn't have the ball for long before he fumbled it back to Philadelphia.

Richardson didn't waste any time redeeming himself. Three plays later, he intercepted another Cavanaugh pass and returned it to the Eagles' 38-yard line with seven seconds left.

Chicago didn't risk running any plays and immediately sent in Butler to attempt the game-winning field goal. But the 55-yard attempt was short by less than three feet.

The end of regulation, however, did not mean the end of big, exciting plays.

Philadelphia won the toss and elected to receive. On the return, Duerson again made the big play, forcing a fumble at the 35-yard line with the Bears' Vestee Jackson recovering.

Ditka didn't take any chances on offense and ran the ball eight times to move it to the six. Then Butler came in to win the game with his kick.

"We have several guys on our team who could have made that kick," Butler said. "I'm definitely not the hero. It doesn't overshadow the four I missed."

"I blocked it out of my mind. there was no way I was going to miss that last kick."

The four kicks Butler missed, from 38, 46, 37 and 55 yards out, didn't miss by much. "They went straight and I was on the right hash," Butler said. "They just didn't hook. The 46-yarder I tried to kill and I knew I missed it right off my foot."

Ditka doesn't worry about Butler

Butler's earlier kicks didn't shake Ditka's confidence in him. "I have all the confidence in the world in Kevin," Ditka said. "I'm not going to stop trying him from that distance. He needs to make them. He tried too hard to make the other ones. He makes them from 55 yards in practice. He missed it, but it was perfect. He made the one that won

the game and that's the only one I'll remember."

Tomczak was shaky in the first quarter. His second pass of the game led to an Eagles' field goal after it was intercepted by Alonzo Johnson and returned to the 50-yard line.

"I put Mike into a couple situations early where maybe I could have not called some of the plays I called," Ditka said. "He made a couple bad plays and he knows it. But how are you going to learn? It's his first time up against a good defense in the heat of battle. And I think he responded. The first couple of passes weren't good, but he'll learn. He's trying to make things happen and you can't fault him for that."

Tomczak said, "I'll take the blame for it. I'm the guy that threw the football. They did basically what we thought they'd do. And when we got near the end zone they put a lot of pressure on."

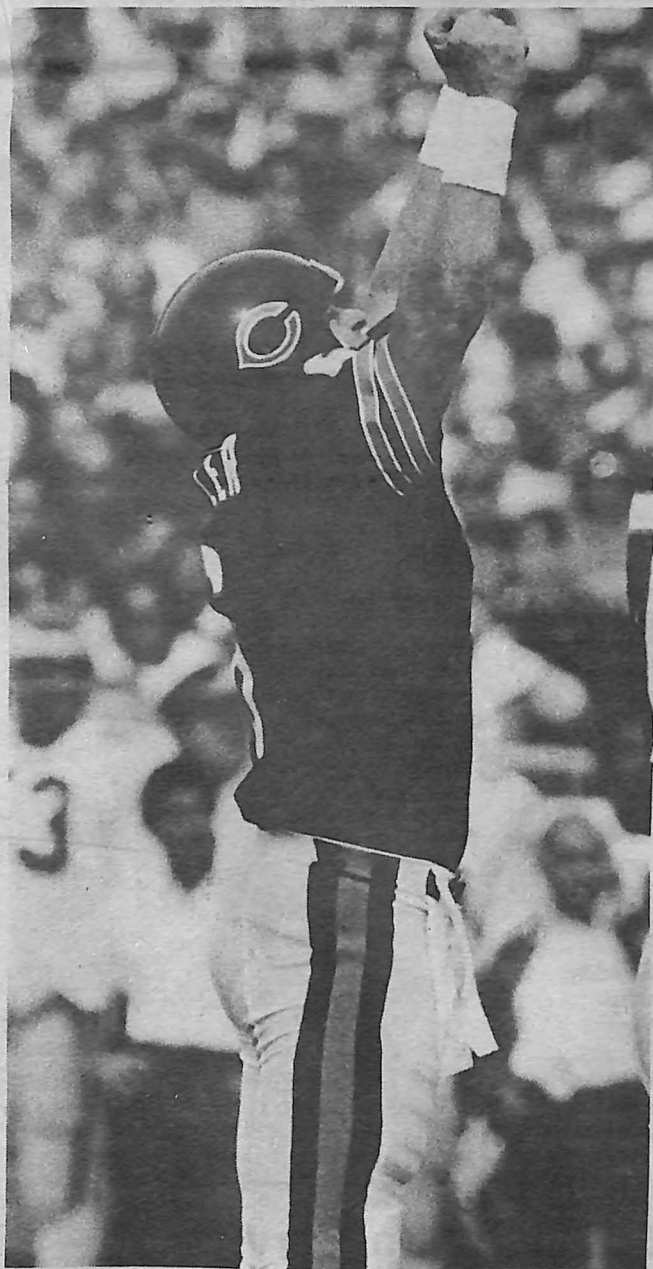
Jaworski then completed two third-down passes for 10 and 16 yards to move the Eagles within field goal range.

Paul McFadden then connected on a 49-yard field goal to give Philadelphia a 3-0 first-quarter lead.

Eagles successful on third down

Jaworski repeatedly threw to Richardson's side in the quarter, completing four of five third-down passes in the quarter for 39 yards.

Continued Page 14



Kevin Butler gave the signal after his 23-yard field goal attempt went through the goal posts in overtime, giving the Bears a 13-10 win over Philadelphia at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Bears-Eagles Official Statistics

SCORING SUMMARY

Philadelphia	3	0	0	7	0	—	10
Chicago	0	0	10	0	3	—	13

Eagles, 1, 4:06, McFadden, 49-yard field goal, 3-0
 Bears, 3, 9:15, Payton, 1-yard run (Butler kick), 3-7
 Bears, 3, 12:44, Butler, 23-yard field goal, 3-10
 Eagles, 4, 1:25, Quick, 26-yard pass from Jaworski (McFadden kick)
 10-10

Bears, OT, 5:56, Butler, 23-yard field goal, 10-13

Weather: Cloudy, cool, low 60's, temperature 58 degrees, wind and direction northeast at 9 mph, 67%

Attendance 65,130, tickets distributed 66,030, unused 900, time 3:28

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Eagles	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	17	21
By Rushing	5	13
By Passing	10	8
By Penalty	2	0
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	11-20	3-11
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0	1-1
TOTAL NET YARDS	247	344
Total Off. Plays		
(Inc. times passing)	73	68
Av. Gain per Off. Play	3.4	5.1
NET YARDS RUSHING	101	244
Total Rushing Plays	34	44
Av. Gain Per Rush. Play	3.0	5.5
NET YARDS PASSING	146	100
Times Thrown —		
Yds. Lost Att. To Pass	3-31	2-16
Gross Yds. Passing	177	116
PASS ATT. — COMP. —		
HAD INTERCEPTED	36-20-4	22-10-3
Av. Gain Per Pass Play		
(Inc. times thrown passing)	3.7	4.2
PUNTS — NO. AND AV.	6-33.8	4-43.8
Had Blocked	0	0
TOTAL RET. YARDAGE	101	143
No. and Yds. Punt Ret.	2-14	4-39
No. and Yds. KO Returns	4-90	3-40
No. and Yds. Interc. Ret.	3-3	4-64
PENALTIES — NO. AND YDS.	5-33	6-48
FUMBLES — NO. AND LOST	2-2	1-1
TOUCHDOWNS	1	1
Rushing	0	1
Passing	1	0
Returns	0	0
EXTRA POINTS MADE — ATT.	1-1	1-1
FG MADE — ATT.	1-1	2-6
TIME OF POSSESSION	30:32	35:24

FINAL INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Philadelphia

RUSHING	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Byars	19	32	1.7	6	0
Haddix	9	34	3.8	7	0
Tautalatasi	3	5	1.7	3	0
Cunningham	1	16	16.0	16	0
Jaworski	1	10	10.0	10	0
Cavanaugh	1	4	4.0	4	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD/Yds.	TD	LG	Int.	Had
Jaworski	30	18	165	2/19	1	26	2	
Cunningham	3	1	13	1/12	0	13	0	
Cavanaugh	3	1	-1	0/0	0	-1	2	

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Quick	5	67	26	1
P. Smith	3	44	18	0
Spagnola	1	2	2	0
Haddix	4	27	14	0
R. Johnson	1	18	18	0
Little	2	10	6	0
Byars	1	2	2	0
Tautalatasi	3	7	7	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
A. Johnson	1	-3	-3	0
A. Waters	2	0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Teltschik	6	203	33.8	0	1	49

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Smith	2	0	14	7	0
*Outbounds	1				
*Touchback	1				



Gary Fencik (left) and Otis Wilson lighten the mood at Soldier Field while taking a break. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Tautalatasi	3	55	23	0
Crawford	1	35	35	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Byars	1	0	0	0	0
Crawford	1	0	0	0	0

Chicago	Att.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
RUSHING					
Payton	34	177	5.2	18	1
Gault	2	48	24.0	33	0
Suhey	5	2	4	3	0
Tomczak	2	14	7.0	11	0
Thomas	1	3	3.0	3	0

PASSING	Att.	Comp.	Yds.	TKD/Yds.	TD	LG	Int.	Had
Tomczak	20	10	116	2/16	0	27	2	
Payton	2	0	0	0/0	0	0	1	

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Moorehead	2	28	27	0
Payton	1	-2	-2	0
Gentry	2	16	13	0
Suhey	1	13	13	0
Barnes	1	13	13	0
Gault	2	31	18	0
Wrightman	1	17	17	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Duerson	1	22	22	0
Wilson	1	10	10	0
Richardson	2	32	32	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Buford	4	175	43.8	1	2	47

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Barnes	4	0	39	26	0
*Out of bounds	1				
*Downed	1				

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Sanders	2	22	14	0
Gentry	1	18	18	0

FUMBLES	Fum.	Own	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Richardson	1	0	0	0	0

DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (Unofficial)

Eagles	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Waters	8	0	1	9	2	1	0
Cooper	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilson	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foules	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hoage	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Young	2	2	0	0	0	2	0
Hopkins	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cobb	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	6	1	0	0	1	1	0
Reichenbach	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Clarke	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
White	7	0	1	7	0	1	0
Strauthers	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Darby	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Simmons	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Bears	T	A	S	YL	Int.	PD	FR
Duerson	9	2	1	12	1	0	0
Jackson	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Richardson	5	1	0	0	2	1	0
Fencik	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phillips	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singletary	5	2	0	0	0	1	0
Wilson	4	4	0	0	1	0	0
Marshall	7	3	0	0	0	0	0
Perry	5	2	1	7	0	0	0
McMichael	5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dent	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hampton	3	1	1	12	0	0	1

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Perry returns to where the legend started

William Perry returns to a familiar center stage Monday night in Green Bay. The Packers are to the Refrigerator as the old Washington Generals were to the Harlem Globetrotters.

It was Monday night, October 21, 1985, when Perry first revolutionized football against the Packers in Chicago. He blocked George Cumby into oblivion, scored a touchdown and won the hearts of all of America, save Northern Wisconsin.

Two weeks later, he went to Green Bay and found fans banging refrigerators with sledgehammers in the parking lot. He responded by catching a pass from Jim McMahon for another touchdown. Even Green Bay coach Forrest Gregg had to chuckle at the sight.



By
Don
Pierson

It was the Bears' closest victory of 1985, 16-10. Perry's touchdown had provided the difference, although it was Walter Payton's running that sealed it.

That was when Perry was little more than a big phenomenon. He was a rookie defensive tackle sitting on Buddy Ryan's bench and grating on Mike Ditka's mind. To prove he was a good athlete and a wise No. 1 draft pick, Ditka put him on offense.

Ditka claimed he didn't mean to make him a national hero. He didn't. Perry soon became an international hero, hailed from China to England. Fat people everywhere rejoiced.

Endorsements come in heavily

Perry made anywhere from \$2 million to \$4 million in endorsements and commercials during the off-season, enough to live without ever playing football again.

What would he do for an encore?

The answer was easy for Perry: play football.

"He could take all this other stuff and leave it all behind," said his agent, Jim Steiner.

"Playing it great. That's what your main objective is. That's what got everything else brought in to you. You play each and every game hard, and when your body says quit, it's time to go. You have fun while you can," said Perry.

Perry's idea of fun is playing, not advertising.

"I don't think about being famous or nothing like that," he said.

Already, Perry is more famous than anyone who ever played in the Pro Bowl. He is one of the most famous people in America. He doesn't have to play football to become rich or famous, yet playing football is what he wants to do most and what he is doing better than ever at the moment.

When Perry was fined \$2,000 for tossing St. Louis quarterback Neil Lomax on his ear in a preseason game, Steiner was called to comment on the incident.

Steiner has based in St. Louis, so people there wanted to know whether he thought Perry had damaged his reputation as a cuddly Bear.

"His purpose is not to build an image off the field," said Steiner. "I don't think what he did was intentional and I think it may bring him new-found respect as a football player, which is what he wants."

Confidence grows in second year

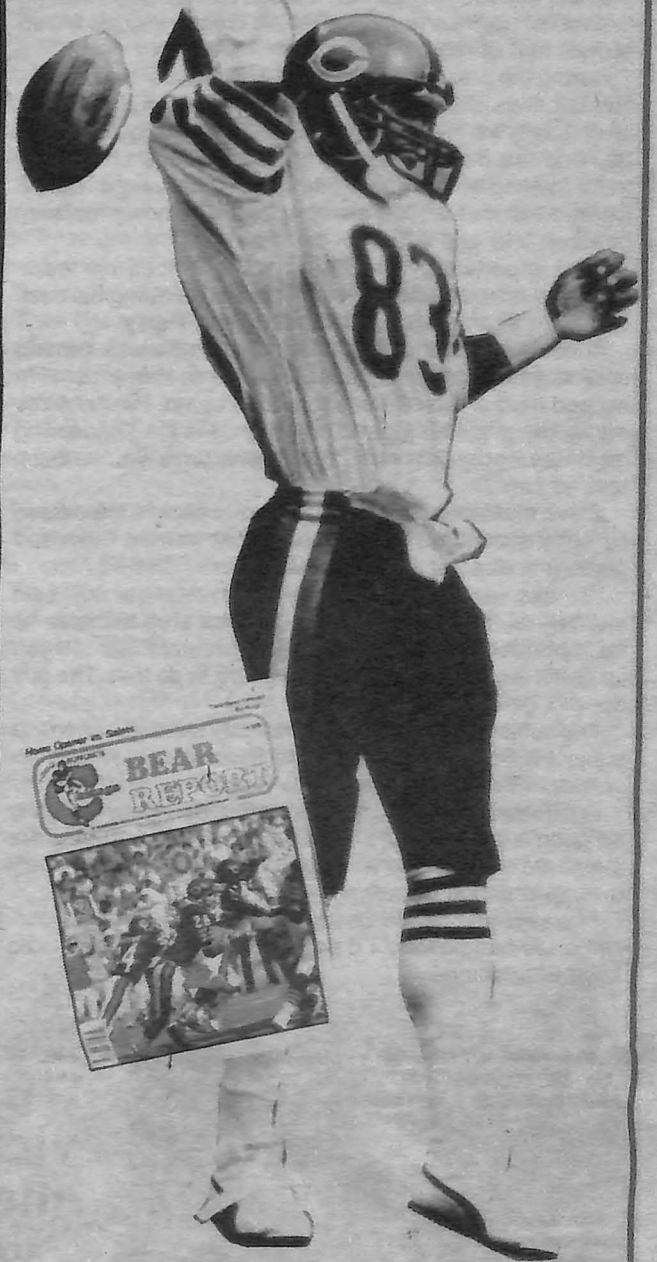
Most players say the biggest leap they made in their professional careers is between the first and second years. If they survive as rookies and learn what the game is all about, they come back as wise veterans in their sophomore seasons.

"You have so much more confidence in yourself," said Perry. "You know what's going on. You know what to do and what it takes to do it. You just go out and play."

Perry has now played fullback, defensive tackle, and linebacker for the Bears. Once projected as strictly a nose tackle in a 3-4 alignment, Ditka and defensive coordinator Vince Tobin have not limited the potential of a

Continued Next Page

Get 'em while they're hot...



The Bears are hot after winning Super Bowl XX and already have their sights set on Super Bowl XXI at the Rose Bowl.

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William Perry tuned up for Monday night's Green Bay game with this tackle on the Eagles' Kevin Byers. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Perry

Continued From Page 5

320-pounder with agility and mobility. Nose tackle is where Perry hasn't played.

Ditka's refusal to be limited by stereotypes is one of his greatest coaching strengths. Lately, he has been kicking himself for not incorporating Dennis Gentry into his lineup sooner and in more ways.

During the preseason, Perry was the Bears' best defensive lineman. During the heat of training camp, he didn't miss practices. He convinced Ditka that he could play at 320 and the Bears changed the stipulations of his contract. Instead of having to meet a specific weight twice a week to earn his \$2,000-a-week bonus, he now must stay between 315 and 320.

Most important of all, Perry has convinced his teammates he is a genuine player, dedicated to doing his best.

Teammates impressed with Perry

"I could see at the end of last season he was coming on and would be a fine player," said Dan Hampton. "He worked hard in the off-season and in camp. His priorities are in line and he's got his head on. He's an endearing guy. You appreciate him a lot more once you've been around him."

Steve McMichael, who plays next to him, is impressed by Perry's stamina, the only thing that worried Ditka and personnel director Bill Tobin when they drafted him.

"I have yet to see the guy tired in a game," said McMichael. "Some say, 'Well, he's not tired because he loafs.' Shoot, I'm talking about just breathin' hard. If you just walk around the field, you're going to do that. The guy doesn't get tired."

The subject of resentment invariably surfaces when the subject is Perry. Everywhere the Bears go, television advertises "Fridge Perry and the Bears."

But they did that last year, too, when Perry wasn't nearly so good a player as he is this year. Besides, there are members of the Bears who don't mind it at all when Perry diverts attention from them.

"I was telling him in London, 'Only a person like yourself could handle this.' I'd probably go stone crazy," said Mike Singletary.

Two-Game Totals

Bears Defensive Stats

UNOFFICIAL DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

Player	Total	Solo	Assists	Passes Defended	Fumbles Recovered	Forced Fumbles	Blocks	Sacks/Yards
W Marshall	17	13	4	0	0	0	0	.0/.0
M Singletary	16	14	2	2	0	0	0	.0/.0
D Duerson	16	13	3	1	0	1	0	1.0/12.0
O Wilson	12	7	5	1	0	0	0	.0/.0
M Richardson	11	10	1	1	0	0	0	.0/.0
S McMichael	11	9	2	0	0	0	0	.0/.0
W Perry	11	8	3	1	0	0	0	1.0/7.0
G Fencik	11	7	4	0	0	0	0	.0/.0
R Dent	10	8	2	0	0	1	0	1.0/9.0
R Phillips	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	.0/.0
D Hampton	5	4	1	0	1	0	0	1.0/12.0
V Jackson	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	.0/.0
T Bell	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	.0/.0
A Harris	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	.0/.0

SPECIAL TEAMS TACKLES

Player	Total	Solo	Assists
J Morrissey	3	3	0
T Sanders	2	2	0
D Duerson	2	2	0
D Rains	2	2	0
R Rivera	2	2	0
S Gayle	1	1	0
T Bell	1	1	0
K Ortego	1	1	0



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Walter Payton looks for a hole to go through while rushing for 177 yards against the Eagles Sunday. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Ditka gets his win in spite of himself

Bears coach Mike Ditka is glad the Eagles game is finally history.

For the past week, the media have hounded both Ditka and Eagles head coach Buddy Ryan about any special significance of the game because of the feud between the two when Ryan was with the Bears as an assistant. And Ditka admitted after the game that all the hype had an effect on him.

"It had a lot of effect on me," he said. "I think you try to do individual things. We're a team sport. And when I start thinking I have to be a genius to win football games, I have a problem."



Bear Notebook

"The last time this happened was the first year we played Dallas. You try to do too much. You put too much importance on it. It's just another football game. I put too much pressure on myself and made it too much of a personal thing."

•**INJURIES HAVE HIT** the Bears hard this year. And last week Chicago lost two more starters for at least a couple of weeks.

Wide receiver Ken Margerum pulled a muscle in his right calf during practice last Wednesday. Team trainer Fred Caito said Margerum ruptured the plantaris tendon in his right lower calf and will miss at least four weeks.

Margerum was placed on injured reserve and the Bears re-signed wide receiver Clay Pickering to take Margerum's

place on the roster.

"It's a disabling injury for at least two weeks, and another week to get his strength back," Caito said. "And being a wide receiver, we're looking at a four to five week deal."

Pickering was signed by the Bears on Aug. 19 after being waived by Cincinnati. Chicago then released Pickering when it reduced its roster to 50 players on Aug. 28.

The Bears did receive some good news about injuries. Quarterback Jim McMahon's shoulder has improved, and he was listed as questionable, instead of out, for the Philadelphia game.

"He's still tender to touch, but going through a range of motion there's no tenderness," Caito said. "He's progressing very well. I think by the middle of the week he could start throwing."

Ditka said McMahon was working with weights and his motion is improving. "Jim's moving a five-pound weight around well with his arm. He can actually go through the motion of throwing the ball, but he couldn't throw it now," Ditka said.

Ditka said McMahon was upgraded to questionable because, if needed, he could at least take snaps from center, though he couldn't throw the ball.

When asked who his disaster quarterback would be, Ditka said, "Walter. Either him or Perry."

And when asked if he might have Perry kick off against the Eagles, Ditka said, "I know who he'll pass it at. But I think it would be foolish to have him kick it out of bounds."

•**TODD BELL'S HAMSTRING** isn't getting any better. It has bothered Bell since he came back to the Bears after signing. And now Ditka said the hamstring may be sprained.

"I don't think it's totally pulled, I just think it's a very severe sprain," he said. "It's been bothering him for a long time, and I think that's what happened to Kenny."

•**DITKA WAS CONFIDENT** before the Eagles game that Mike Tomczak would fill in well for McMahon. Ditka was

asked what he thought of Tomczak during practice last week and he said with a smile, "He's cut from the divine mold of Johnny Unitas. If I don't holler at him too much, he'll do very well."

Tomczak was taking about two-thirds of the snaps in practice last week, and Steve Fuller was taking the other third.

•**THE FINES AGAINST** 26 Bears for their part in the fight during the St. Louis game didn't draw much criticism from Ditka last week.

"They didn't look like they were out of line," he said about the fines. "I respect our players for what they did. The fines are going to come afterwards, regardless. It's an infraction of the rules."

Twenty-five Cardinals also were fined by Commissioner Pete Rozelle. The fines ranged from \$400 to \$1,500 for the Bears. All the fines go to charity, either the Vince Lombardi Cancer Research Center or the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund.

•**THE BEARS USED** a new offensive formation in the Eagles game called, appropriately enough, the eagle formation.

It featured the fullback and tight end spread apart in the backfield, with the running back behind the tight end. Then the tight end was usually sent in motion.

"We had to remove somebody from the line of scrimmage and the only way we could do that was to move somebody out of the backfield and spread them out," Ditka said.

"It just gave Philadelphia another thing to prepare for," said Mike Tomczak. "When you move people around on offense, it forces the defense to make adjustments."

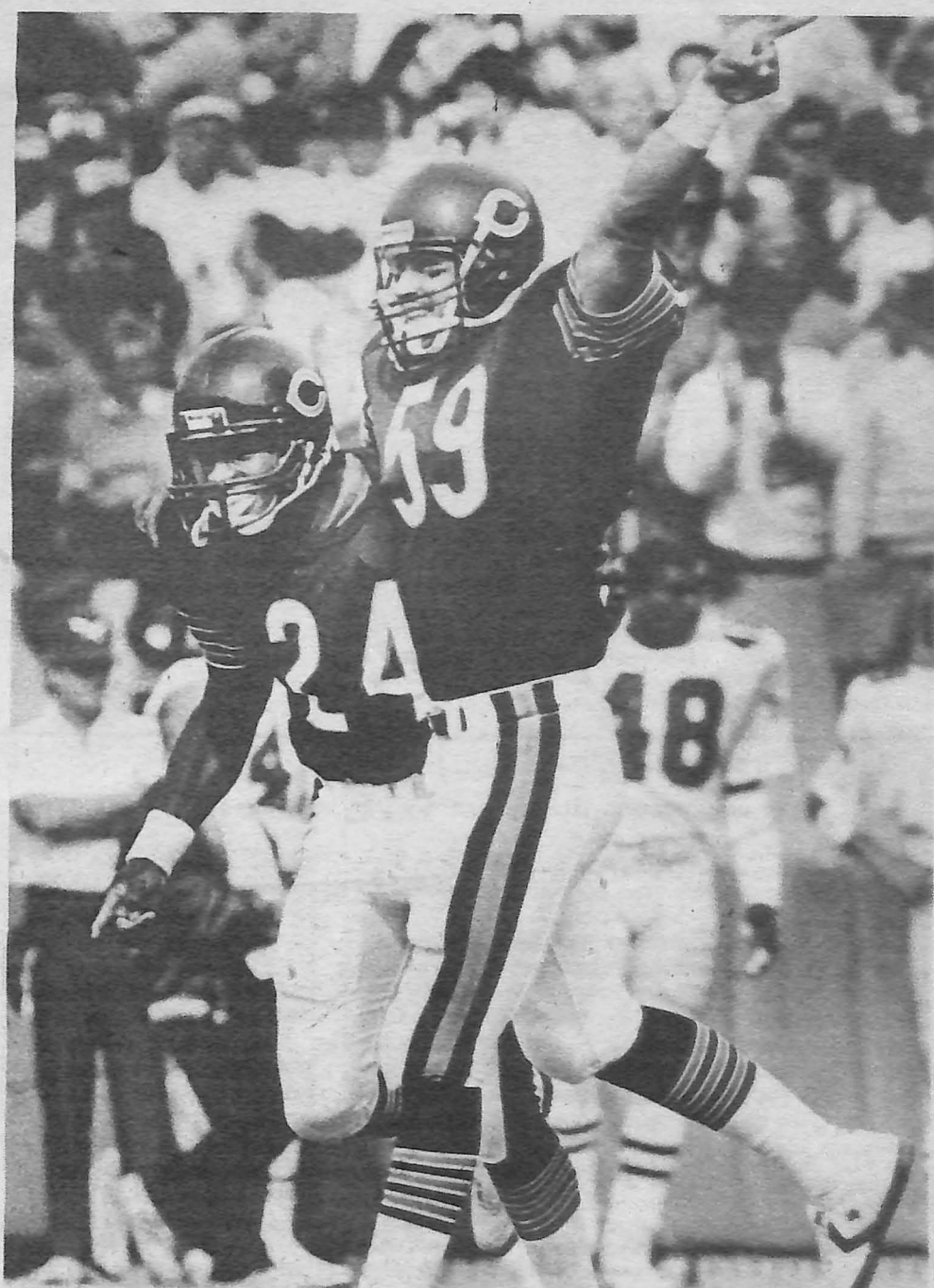
•**RICHARD DENT WAS BENCHED** in the first quarter of Sunday's game by Ditka because he missed Thursday's practice after complaining about a sore back.

On Thursday Dent told Caito he couldn't practice be-

Continued Page 10



Richard Dent grabs hold of Ron Jaworski just before Jaworski lets go of a pass in Sunday's game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



Vestee Jackson and Ron Rivera celebrate after Jackson recovered a Philadelphia fumble on the overtime opening kickoff. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Green Bay Packers vs. Chicago Bears



Green Bay Packers Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
5	Vince Ferragamo	QB	6-3	217	32	9	Nebraska
10	Al Del Greco	K	5-10	195	24	3	Auburn
16	Randy Wright	QB	6-2	201	25	3	Wisconsin
17	Don Bracken	P	6-0	205	24	2	Michigan
20	Ed Berry	DB	5-10	176	22	R	Utah State
22	Mark Lee	DB	5-11	188	28	7	Washington
24	Mossy Cade	CB	6-1	195	24	2	Texas
26	Tim Lewis	DB	5-11	191	24	4	Pittsburgh
27	Gary Hayes	DB	5-10	180	29	3	Fresno State
29	Ken Stills	DB	5-10	185	26	2	Wisconsin
30	Paul Lee Carruth	RB	6-1	220	25	R	Alabama
31	Gerry Ellis	FB	5-11	225	28	7	Missouri
33	Jessie Clark	FB	6-0	233	26	4	Arkansas
36	Kenneth Davis	RB	5-10	212	24	R	Texas Christian
38	John Sullivan	DB	6-1	195	24	R	Cal-Berkeley
41	Tom Flynn	S	6-0	195	24	3	Pittsburgh
42	Gary Ellerson	RB	5-11	220	23	2	Wisconsin
54	Jeff Schuh	LB	6-2	233	28	6	Minnesota
55	Randy Scott	LB	6-1	222	27	6	Alabama
56	Burnell Dent	LB	6-1	230	23	R	Tulane
58	Mark Cannon	C	6-3	258	24	3	Tex. Arlington
59	John Anderson	LB	6-3	229	30	9	Michigan
62	Ruben Mendoza	OL	6-4	300	23	R	Wayne St. (NE)
65	Ron Hallstrom	G	6-6	283	27	5	Iowa
69	Bill Cherry	C/G	6-4	275	25	R	Mid. Tenn. St.
72	Tom Neville	T/G	6-5	280	24	R	Fresno St.
73	Alan Veingrad	T/G	6-5	280	23	1	East Texas St.
75	Ken Ruettgers	OL	6-5	267	24	2	USC
76	Alphonso Carreker	DE	6-6	260	24	3	Florida St.
77	Greg Feasel	T	6-7	301	27	1	Abilene Christian
79	Donnie Humphrey	DE	6-3	275	25	3	Auburn
80	James Lofton	WR	6-3	197	30	9	Stanford
81	Dan Ross	TE	6-4	240	29	7	Northeastern
85	Phillip Epps	WR	5-9	155	27	5	TCU
86	Ed West	TE	6-1	242	25	3	Auburn
87	Walter Stanley	WR/KR	5-9	180	23	2	Mesa Coll.
89	Mark Lewis	TE	6-2	235	25	2	Texas A&M
90	Ezra Johnson	DE	6-4	259	30	10	Morris Brown
91	Brian Noble	LB	6-3	237	23	2	Arizona St.
92	Matt Koar	DE	6-5	250	22	R	USC
93	Robert Brown	DE	6-2	250	26	5	VPI
94	Charles Martin	DT	6-4	270	27	3	Livingston
97	Timothy Harris	LB	6-5	224	21	R	Memphis State
99	John Dorsey	LB	6-2	235	25	3	Connecticut

HEAD COACH: Forrest Gregg

DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR: Dick Modzelewski

ASSISTANT COACHES: Tom Coughlin, passing game/receivers; John Hilton, offensive backfield/special teams; Dick Jauron, defensive backfield; Virgil Knight, strength/conditioning; Dale Lindsey, linebackers; George Sefcik, quarterbacks; Jerry Wampfler, offensive line.

Monday, Sept. 22

Lambeau Field

Green Bay

8 p.m. CST

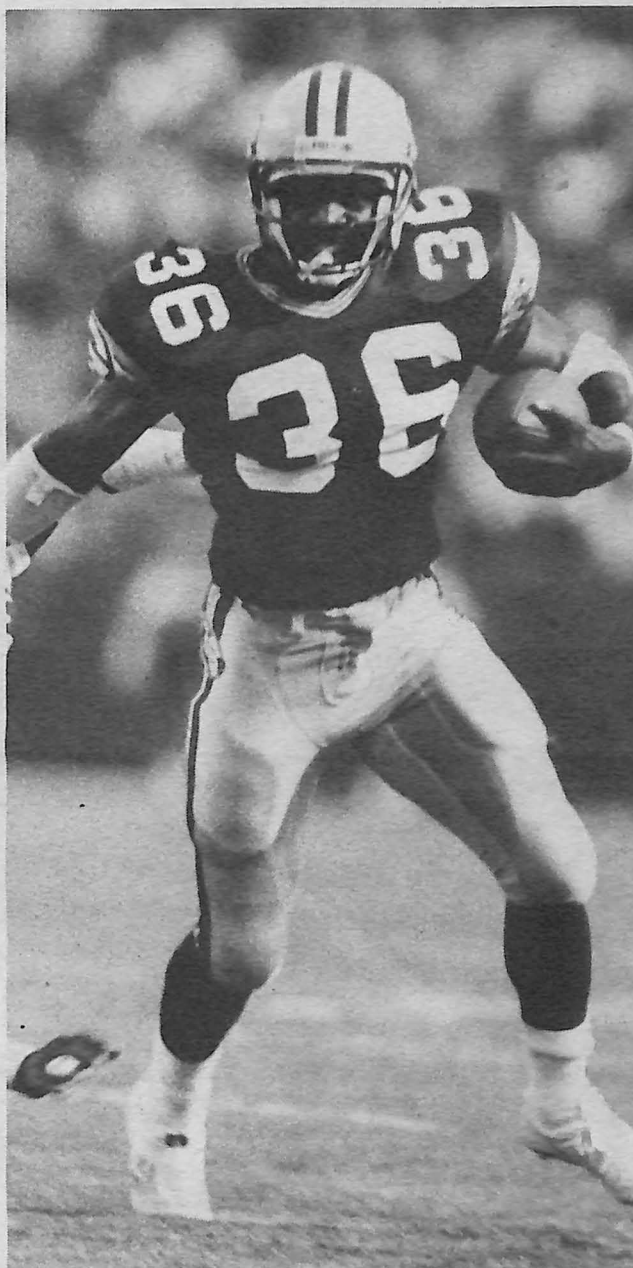


Chicago Bears Numerical Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
4	Steve Fuller	QB	6-4	195	29	8	Clemson
6	Kevin Butler	K	6-1	195	24	2	Georgia
8	Maury Buford	P	6-1	191	26	5	Texas Tech
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	190	27	5	BYU
18	Mike Tomczak	QB	6-1	195	24	2	Ohio State
20	Thomas Sanders	RB	5-11	203	24	2	Texas A & M
22	Dave Duerson	S	6-1	203	25	4	Notre Dame
23	Shaun Gayle	CB	5-11	193	24	3	Ohio St.
24	Vestee Jackson	DB	6-0	186	22	R	Washington
25	Todd Bell	S	6-1	205	27	5	Ohio State
26	Matt Suhey	FB	5-11	216	28	7	Penn State
27	Mike Richardson	CB	6-0	188	25	4	Arizona St.
29	Dennis Gentry	RB	5-8	181	27	5	Baylor
33	Calvin Thomas	FB	5-11	245	26	5	Illinois
34	Walter Payton	RB	5-10	202	31	12	Jackson St.
35	Neal Anderson	RB	5-11	210	21	R	Florida
36	Maurice Douglass	DB	5-11	200	22	R	Kentucky
45	Gary Fencik	S	6-1	196	32	11	Yale
48	Reggie Phillips	DB	5-10	170	25	2	SMU
50	Mike Singletary	LB	6-0	228	27	6	Baylor
51	Jim Morrissey	LB	6-3	215	23	2	Michigan State
53	Dan Rains	LB	6-1	229	32	3	Cincinnati
55	Otis Wilson	LB	6-2	232	28	7	Louisville
57	Tom Thayer	G/C	6-4	261	24	2	Notre Dame
58	Wilber Marshall	LB	6-1	225	24	3	Florida
59	Ron Rivera	LB	6-3	239	24	3	California
60	Tom Andrews	C	6-4	267	25	3	Louisville
62	Mark Bortz	G	6-6	269	25	4	Iowa
63	Jay Hilgenberg	C	6-3	258	27	6	Iowa
68	Paul Blair	OT	6-4	295	22	R	Oklahoma State
70	Henry Waechter	DT	6-5	275	27	5	Nebraska
72	William Perry	DT	6-2	308	23	2	Clemson
73	Mike Hartenstein	DE	6-3	254	32	12	Penn State
74	Jim Covert	T	6-4	271	26	4	Pittsburgh
76	Steve McMichael	DT	6-2	260	28	7	Texas
78	Keith Van Horne	T	6-6	280	28	6	USC
79	Kurt Becker	G	6-5	267	27	5	Michigan
80	Tim Wrightman	TE	6-3	237	26	2	UCLA
81	David Williams	WR	6-3	187	23	R	Illinois
82	Ken Margerum	WR	6-0	180	27	5	Stanford
83	Willie Gault	WR	6-1	183	25	4	Tennessee
87	Emery Moorehead	TE	6-2	220	32	10	Colorado
88	Pat Dunsmore	TE	6-3	237	26	3	Drake
89	Keith Ortego	WR	6-0	180	22	2	McNeese State
90	Al Harris	LB	6-5	253	29	7	Arizona St.
92	Lew Barnes	WR	5-8	163	23	R	Oregon
93	Larry Rubens	C	6-2	262	27	3	Montana State
95	Richard Dent	DE	6-5	263	25	4	Tenn State
98	Tyrone Keys	DE	6-7	267	26	4	Miss. State
99	Dan Hampton	DT	6-5	267	28	8	Arkansas

HEAD COACH: Mike Ditka.

ASSISTANTS: Jim Dooley, Ed Hughes, Steve Kazor, Greg Landry, Jim LaRue, John Levra, Dave McGinnis, Johnny Roland, Dick Stanfel, Vince Tobin.



RUNNING BACK KENNETH DAVIS

Special to the Bear Report

After destroying the Jets in the preseason opener, fans of the Green and Gold were talking playoffs for the first time in years. The Packers have not played in a postseason game since 1982.

However, the fans' optimism may have been a bit premature. As the '86 exhibition campaign rolled along, the Packers appeared to be regressing. They looked terrible in losses to the Giants, Bengals and Patriots and finished the warm-up season 1-3. As the team continued to take its lumps on the field, head coach Forrest Gregg was sharpening his axe, cutting veteran players left and right. Among the casualties were tight end Paul Coffman, quarterback Lynn Dickey, defensive end Mike Butler, offensive tackle Greg Koch, guard Tim Huffman, nose tackle Terry Jones and linebackers Mike Douglas, Rich Wingo and George Cumby. All are former starters.

By the time opening day rolled around, 21 players who were either on the active roster or on injured reserve at the end of 1985 were looking for new jobs.

"I'm tired of sitting still," Gregg said. "I couldn't do it with the old people and kept thinking, maybe next year, maybe next year." After three consecutive 8-8 seasons,

the third-year coach of the Packers figured he better shake things up in order to give the Packers a chance to fight for the division crown.

If opening day is any indication, 8-8 may only be a dream for the Packers this year. Before a packed house at Lambeau Field, the Packers played one of their worst opening games in their 66-year history. The Houston Oilers looked like world champions as they destroyed the Pack, 31-3. Gregg was livid following the disaster.

"That was an embarrassing performance by our football team," Gregg said. "Offensively, we lacked the ability to sustain drives. Houston completely controlled the ball on our defense."

Pack wasn't ready for start

Reporters asked Gregg if he thought his team was ready to open the season.

"I don't think so," he snapped back. "I don't think our defense was even close to being ready. Defensively, we did not practice well all week. And I don't know why. If you can't get ready for an opening game, there's not much to you."

"Even though we dropped those last three exhibitions, I felt like we were doing some things better. I felt that we

would improve. I don't expect miracles. I don't expect it to happen overnight. But I know that we have some good, young players and we should get better. I thought that we would play better in this opener. I thought that we would play with a lot more intensity than we did. That's the one thing that surprises me a little bit."

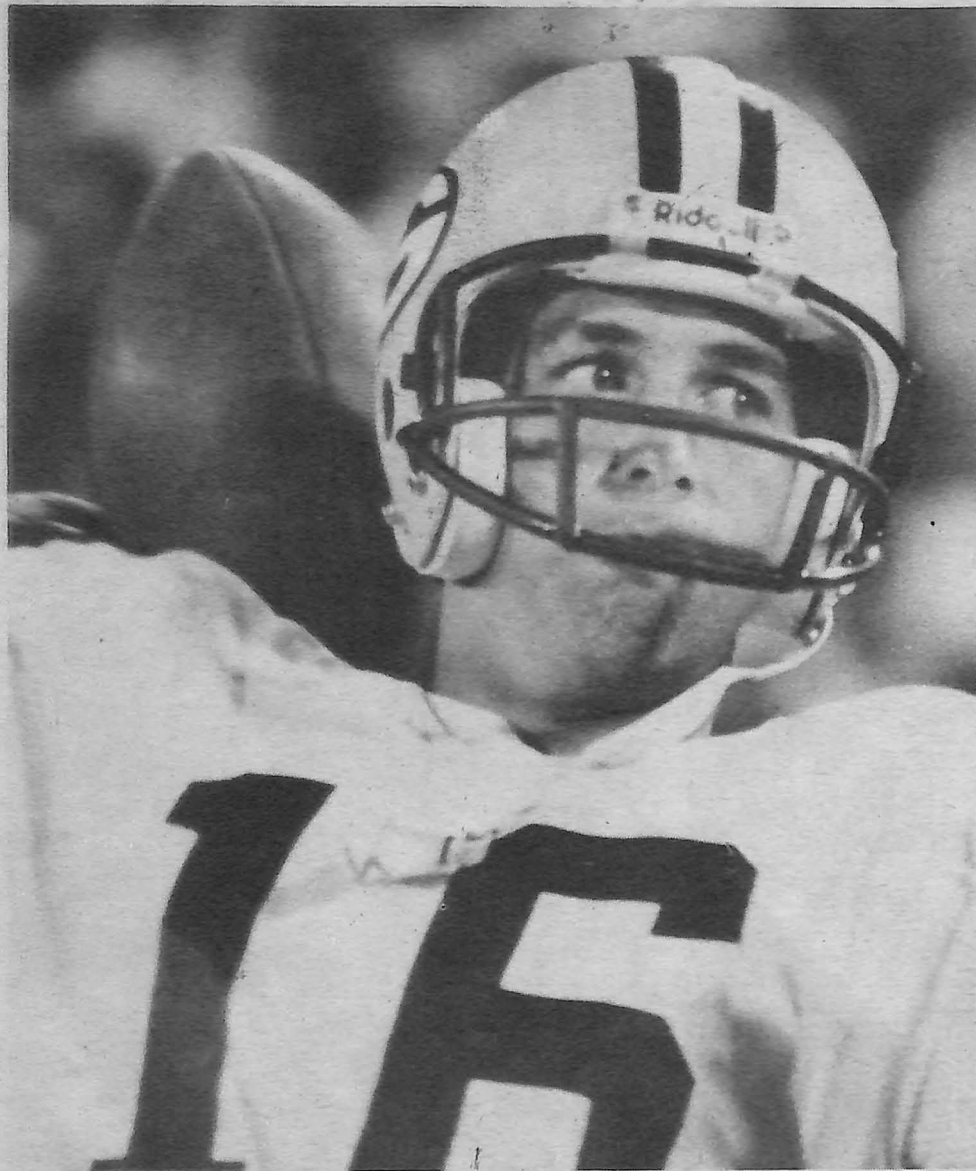
The Packer defense allowed 375 yards, 157 on the ground and 218 through the air. The Oilers averaged five yards per play.

"It was embarrassing. It really was," said linebacker John Dorsey. "I really thought we were ready. In the first quarter, I thought we were going to do it. But they kept driving and driving, and wearing us down."

"It wasn't the kind of game we wanted to play," added defensive end Alphonso Carreker. "But we can't hang our heads about the way we played. We have to work hard in practice and prove to the fans and coaches — and especially to ourselves — that we can play better. And I know that we can."

If the Packer defense is to improve, players such as Carreker, Dorsey, linebackers Randy Scott and Brian Noble, cornerbacks Mark Lee and Tim Lewis, and safeties Mossy

Continued Page 10



QUARTERBACK RANDY WRIGHT



OUTSIDE LINEBACKER BRIAN NOBLE

Lineups

Green Bay Chicago

Offense

WR 80 James Lofton, 88 Phil McConkey
 LT 75 Ken Ruettgers, 77 Greg Feasel
 LG 72 Tom Neville
 C 58 Mark Cannon, 69 Bill Cherry
 RG 65 Ron Hallstrom, 62 Ruben Mendoza
 RT 73 Alan Veingrad, 65 Ron Hallstrom
 WR 85 Phillip Epps, 87 Walter Stanley
 TE 86 Ed West, 89 Mark Lewis, 49 Dan Ross
 QB 16 Randy Wright, 5 Vince Ferragamo
 HB 36 Kenneth Davis, 42 Gary Ellerson
 FB 31 Gerry Ellis, 33 Jessie Clark, 30 Paul Ott Carruth

WR 83 Willie Gault, 89 Keith Ortego
 LT 74 Jim Covert, 68 Paul Blair
 LG 62 Mark Bortz, 79 Kurt Becker
 C 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 RG 57 Tom Thayer, 79 Kurt Becker
 RT 78 Keith Van Horne, 68 Paul Blair
 TE 87 Emery Moorehead, 80 Tim Wrightman
 WR 29 Dennis Gentry, 89 Keith Ortego
 RB 34 Walter Payton, 20 Tom Sanders
 FB 26 Matt Suhey, 33 Calvin Thomas
 QB 18 Mike Tomczak, 4 Steve Fuller

Defense

LE 76 Alphonso Carreker, 92 Matt Koart
 NT 94 Charles Martin, 79 Donnie Humphrey
 RE 93 Robert Brown, 90 Ezra Johnson
 LOLB 59 John Anderson, 54 Timothy Harris
 LILB 55 Randy Scott
 RILB 99 John Dorsey, 56 Burnell Dent, 91 Brian Noble
 ROLB 91 Brian Noble, 54 Jeff Schuh
 LC 22 Mark Lee, 24 Mossy Cade
 RC 26 Tim Lewis, 27 Gary Hayes, 20 Ed Berry
 SS 24 Mossy Cade, 38 John L. Sullivan
 FS 41 Tom Flynn, 29 Ken Stills

LE 99 Dan Hampton, 73 Mike Hartenstine
 LT 76 Steve McMichael, 70 Henry Waechter
 RT 72 William Perry, 70 Henry Waechter
 RE 95 Richard Dent, 70 Henry Waechter
 LLB 55 Otis Wilson, 51 Jim Morrissey
 MLB 50 Mike Singletary, 59 Ron Rivera
 RLB 58 Wilber Marshall, 53 Dan Rains
 LC 27 Mike Richardson, 24 Vestee Jackson
 RC 48 Reggie Phillips, 24 Vestee Jackson
 SS 22 Dave Duerson, 25 Todd Bell
 FS 45 Gary Fencik, 23 Shaun Gayle

Specialists

K 10 Al Del Greco
 P 17 Don Bracken
 H 17 Don Bracken
 PR 87 Walter Stanley, 36 Ken Davis, Ken Stills
 KOR 87 Walter Stanley, 36 Ken Davis, 42 Gary Ellerson
 PC 69 Bill Cherry, 58 Mark Cannon
 KC 69 Bill Cherry, 58 Mark Cannon

PK 6 Kevin Butler
 P 8 Maury Buford
 PR 92 Lew Barnes, 89 Keith Ortego
 KR 83 Willie Gault, 29 Dennis Gentry
 KC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 PC 63 Jay Hilgenberg, 52 Larry Rubens
 H 4 Steve Fuller, 18 Mike Tomczak

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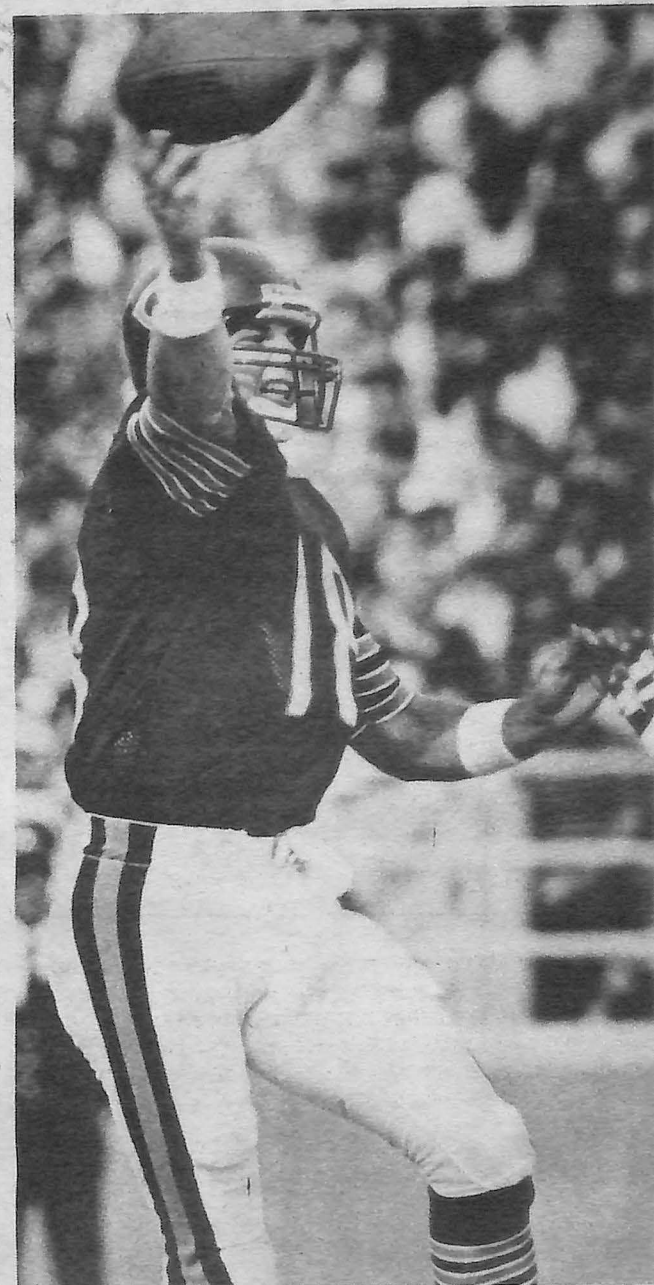
Two-Game Totals

Bears Season Statistics

1986 Regular Season

Bears 2-0

RESULTS AND ATTENDANCE (Actual)										RUSHING		No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD						
S 7 (S)	Chicago 41, Cleveland 31				66,030					W Payton	55	289	5.3	19	2							
S 14 (S)	Chicago 13, Philadelphia 10				65,130					W Gault	2	48	24.0	33	0							
										J McMahon	4	34	8.5	21	0							
S 22 (GB)	Chicago at Green Bay				8:00					M Suhey	12	24	2.0	6	1							
S 28 (C)	Chicago at Cincinnati				12:00					D Gentry	2	21	10.5	13	0							
O 5 (S)	Minnesota at Chicago				12:00					M Tomczak	2	14	7.0	11	0							
O 12 (H)	Chicago at Houston				12:00					C Thomas	2	4	2.0	3	0							
O 19 (M)	Chicago at Minnesota				12:00					T Sanders	1	2	2.0	2	0							
O 26 (S)	Detroit at Chicago				12:00																	
N 3 (S)	L A Rams at Chicago				8:00																	
N 9 (TB)	Chicago at Tampa Bay				12:00																	
N 16 (A)	Chicago at Atlanta				12:00																	
N 23 (S)	Green Bay at Chicago				12:00					BEARS TOTAL	80	436	5.5	33	3							
N 30 (S)	Pittsburgh at Chicago				12:00					Opp. Total	58	170	2.9	16	2							
D 7 (S)	Tampa Bay at Chicago				12:00					RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD							
D 15 (P)	Chicago at Detroit				8:00					M Suhey	7	98	14.0	58	0							
D 21 (D)	Chicago at Dallas				3:00					W Gault	5	90	18.0	31	0							
TEAM STATISTICS										Bears		Opponent										
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS										47		38										
Rushing										26		11										
Passing										16		22										
Penalty										5		5										
3rd Down: Made/Att.										8- 22		18- 34										
4th Down: Made/Att.										1- 1		1- 3										
TOTAL NET YARDS										720		596										
Avg. Per Game										360.0		298.0										
Total Plays										132		138										
Avg. Per Play										5.5		4.3										
NET YARDS RUSHING										436		170										
Avg. Per Game										218.0		85.0										
Total Rushes										80		58										
NET YARDS PASSING										274		426										
Avg. Per Game										137.0		213.0										
Tackled/Yards Lost										3- 25		4- 40										
Gross Yards										299		466										
Attempts/Completions										49- 23		76- 43										
Pct. of Completions										46.9		56.6										
Had Intercepted										3		5										
PUNTS/AVERAGE										5- 40.0		9- 38.8										
NET PUNTING AVG.										33.2		30.9										
PENALTIES/YARDS										14- 87		16- 127										
FUMBLES/BALL LOST										2- 2		2- 2										
TOUCHDOWNS										6		5										
Rushing										3		2										
Passing										1		2										
Returns										2		1										
SCORE BY PERIODS										1	2	3	4	OT	Total							
BEARS TOTAL										21	3	17	10	3	54							
Opp. Total										10	/	7	17	0	41							
SCORING										TDR	TDP	TDRt	PAT	FG	S	TP						
K Butler										0	0	0	6- 6	4-10	0	18						
W Payton										2	1	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	18						
M Suhey										1	0	0	0- 0	0- 0	0	6						
D Gentry										0	0	1	0- 0	0- 0	0	6						
W Marshall										0	0	1	0- 0	0- 0	0	6						
BEARS TOTAL										3	1	2	6- 6	4-10	0	54						
Opp. Total										2	2	1	5- 5	2- 2	0	41						
FIELD GOALS										1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total							
K Butler										1- 1	2- 2	0- 2	1- 20-3		4-10							
BEARS TOTAL										1- 1	2- 2	0- 2	1- 20-3		4-10							
Opp. Total										0- 0	1- 1	0- 0	1- 10-0		2- 2							
PASSING										Att.	Comp.	Yards	Pct.	Avg./Att.	TD	Pct. TD	Int.	Pct. Int.	LG	Lost/Att.	Rating	
M Tomczak										26	13	164	50.0	6.31	0	.0	2	7.7	31	2- 16	38.0	
J McMahon										20	10	135	50.0	6.75	1	5.0	0	.0	58	1- 9	88.5	
W Payton										3	0	0	.0	.00	0	.0	1	33.3	0	0- 0	.0	
BEARS TOTAL										49	23	299	46.9	6.10	1	2.0	3	6.1	58	3- 25	47.8	
Opp. Total										76	43	466	56.6	6.13	2	2.6	5	6.6	40	4- 40	56.6	
FIELD GOALS: Made Missed										K Butler(54,50,47,19)(38,46,23,37,55,23)												



Mike Tomczak lets go of a pass during his first regular season start in the NFL Sunday against the Eagles. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

Packers

Continued From Page 8

Cade and Tom Flynn are going to have to lead the way. Cade had nine tackles and an assist against the Oilers, while Lee recorded the Packers lone interception. The Packer defense did not sack Houston quarterback Warren Moon a single time.

Davis a bright spot on offense

While Gregg found nothing good to say about his defense, at least there was one offensive player who drew some praise. Running back Kenneth Davis, the club's second-round draft choice out of TCU, led the Packers with 36 yards on eight carries, a 4.5 average. The coach gave starting quarterback Randy Wright mixed reviews.

"As you know this was his first league game to start," said Gregg of the three-year veteran out of Wisconsin. In the opener, Wright completed 10 of 23 passes for 155 yards. He was intercepted once.

"He'll have to learn to operate, because I think he's good enough to do it. I think every game he plays that he'll gain experience and confidence, because he's the guy that's going to be there," Gregg added.

How did Wright assess his first pro start? "In terms of the game plan, it was working for us," he said. "We were moving the ball. It's just a matter of executing when you get inside the 20 and scoring. We had a couple of short situations we didn't convert on. Those can really kill a drive. We had been moving the ball, and then you get third-and-one or two, or fourth-and-one. When you don't convert on those, that really swings the momentum, as well as turning the ball over."

Ferragamo only other quarterback

Despite what Gregg says about Wright leading the team permanently, there was a period during the summer camp where observers felt Gregg was far from happy with his quarterback situation. He re-signed Dickey, hoping to light the fire under Wright. Gregg also hoped rookie quarterback Robbie Bosco (third round, BYU) would provide a challenge, but the youngster ended up on injured reserve with a shoulder injury. Nine-year veteran Vince Ferragamo, the oldest player on the team, is the only other quarterback on the roster.

Continued Page 12

Notebook

Continued From Page 7

cause he had a stiff back from lifting weights the day before.

Caito said, "I took his word. He said he couldn't practice so I didn't send him out."

Caito treated the back and Dent was able to practice on Friday. But that didn't go over well with Ditka.

"Dent will be out of the game," Ditka said on Friday.

"He must be hurt too bad to play. He can't practice."

But Ditka played Dent on Sunday, and when asked why Ditka said, "He's one of our 45 players. He's in uniform, he'll probably play."

Dent said his back still isn't perfect. "It's hurting a little bit," he said. "I can't do my spin move. It puts a lot of strain on my back."

Defensive players as good as their system

The Bears' defense made one point in its season opener that was more important than all 31 it gave up. It hasn't changed much. That's all anyone wanted to see, both fans and players.

Vince Tobin, the new coordinator, called an aggressive game with creative formations. If there had been any doubt, he made the players see there would be ample rewards to making his defense work. That first spin of the respect-and-confidence style will be memorable long after all the missed tackles have blended into the win column.

"We came off the field in the first quarter with big smiles on our faces," safety Dave Duerson said. "The first play, we went after the quarterback. We ran a lot of blitzes today."

By
Kevin
Lamb



The players had been more curious than the fans to see what Tobin's defense would look like. They had been practicing it for weeks, but they had never seen an actual game plan. Until yesterday, Tobin's defense was no more than a bunch of papers with Xs and Os scribbled all over them, tic-tac-toe games sliding off the page.

Against the Browns, Tobin's defense became a wrecking bar for dismantling offenses. The Bears didn't always use it properly, but they slept better that night knowing what they can do with it when they're up to speed with the manual. "I thought Vince had a pretty good game

plan," defensive end Richard Dent said.

"The problem was execution, not coaching," safety Gary Fencik said. That's easy enough to fix. The Bears knew all along they have good players. What they needed to find out was their coach is worthy of them.

No blame on Tobin

The players could have blamed Tobin. They could have cursed the day Buddy Ryan left them. They hardly even talked about their old defensive coordinator except when his name came up in questions.

Coach Mike Ditka sure didn't blame Tobin. When somebody pointed out the defense gave up 31 points, he begged to differ. Seven were against the offense, he said. He didn't even complain about the blitzes on two scoring plays and a 29-yard gain to the one that set up another touchdown. Can anyone imagine him overlooking Ryan's blitzes that didn't work out?

Tobin used a lot of them. He even made up some new ones, specifically for Cleveland's blocking schemes. He overloaded the strong side by putting William Perry at linebacker right next to end Dan Hampton. On one play, when the Browns overreacted to the outside threat, Mike Singletary broke through from middle linebacker and hit Bernie Kosar's passing arm. Wilber Marshall's interception turned into a 58-yard touchdown.

Tobin didn't forget about Ryan's old 46, either. His own version, the bear defense, looked different, but Dent estimated the Bears used it nearly half the time. Ryan didn't use the 46 that much in most of his Bear games.

One thing is constant in all variations of the 46. Three defensive linemen are nose-to-nose with the guards and center, and no lineman is across from the tackles. The easiest way to identify the bear defense is to look for Hampton on the center. He plays end in the other defenses.

Otherwise, Dent no longer goes to the side without a tight end. He stays on the right side and stands up like a linebacker. He says he likes it. "I'm already in my strong position when I get to the blocker and I can go right, left or straight ahead."

Little things change under Tobin

Ryan's familiar shoulder-to-shoulder linebackers aren't always there on the left side, either. Duerson will usually take the spot of the linebacker outside Otis Wilson, which technically is strong safety. But against Cleveland, linebacker Wilber Marshall played there some so Duerson could cover halfback Earnest Byner when Byner lined up wide. And instead of always being right next to Wilson, the outside man split toward the sideline or dropped back upfield sometimes, depending on the offensive formation.

Those changes were typical of the transition from Ryan's defense to Tobin's. Little things. "It's like driving a car," Hampton says. "Whether it's a Chevy or a Ford, they're all basically the same thing."

It's not as if they're suddenly playing lacrosse. They're still playing football. Still fighting off blockers, filling running holes, covering receivers.

They're covering different receivers maybe, or filling different holes, than they would have in the same situation under Ryan. That takes time to learn, but even that wasn't the problem against Cleveland. The players are up to speed on their own assignments. They're just not quite so sure about everyone else's.

Suppose there's a play where Singletary was used to having a teammate nearby to his right in Ryan's defense. In Tobin's defense, that teammate might not be to his right. He might be behind him. "Sometimes you'd cover a guy a lot different if you knew what kind of help you had," Singletary said.

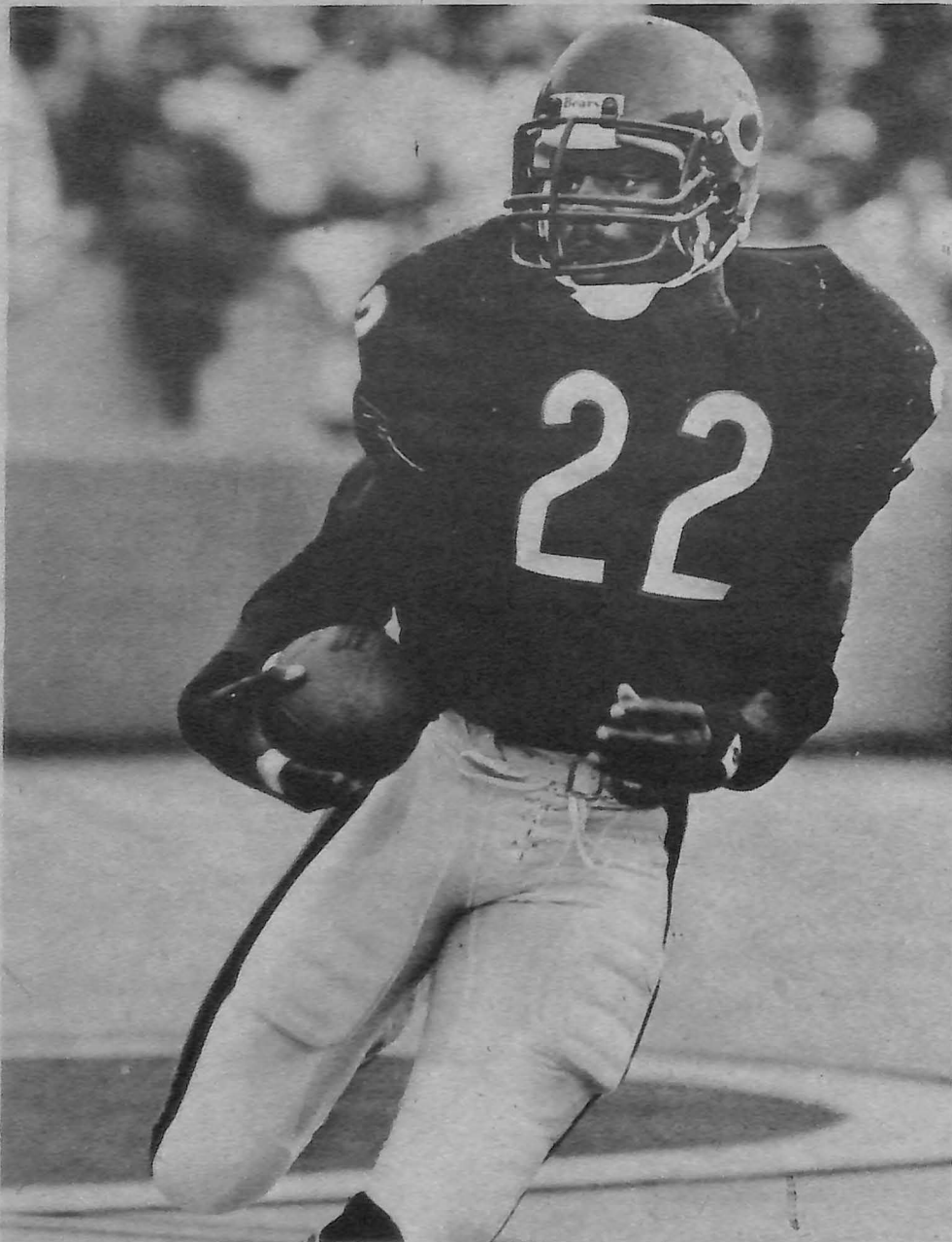
Defense learns on the field

"I learned a lot on the field today," Fencik said after the game. "Right now I don't see the whole picture. I'm learning about where the weaknesses of certain defenses are, who might be under the gun in a certain situation, how to disguise a coverage."

"There's a lot of things you have to learn. You hate learning them on the field." The scoreboard keeps cruel count of those lessons.

The answer, says Singletary, is communication. Holler at each other. Maybe the safeties don't remember where

Continued Next Page



Dave Duerson proved something to Buddy Ryan Sunday during this run after he intercepted a Philadelphia pass. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Packers

Continued From Page 10

Fortunately, Wright has a great group of receivers to throw to. Led by perennial all-pro James Lofton, the receiving corps also includes speedster Phillip Epps and two-year veteran Walter Stanley.

Davis and fullback Gerry Ellis will provide the Packers with a solid rushing attack. Jessie Clark can be effective when he doesn't fumble. Seven-year veteran Eddie Lee Ivery is on injured reserve with a neck injury.

Placekicker Al Del Greco, who beat out former Bear Bob Thomas in camp, connected from 26 yards out against the Oilers but missed a 40-yarder. Punter Don Bracken averaged only 35.0 yards per attempt in the opener. Stanley averaged 18.0 yards on three kickoff returns. He also handles punt returns.

Defense ranked 15th

After the first week of the season the Bear defense didn't rank high in the NFL. But that shouldn't come as a surprise because the defense also started slow last year before finishing high in every category.

The Bear defense is ranked 15th overall in the league, sixth against the rush and 23rd against the pass. In the NFC the defense is eighth overall, third against the rush and 13th of 14 teams against the pass.

The offense has done a little better. In the league the offense is 13th overall, sixth in rushing and 21st in passing. In the NFC the offense is sixth overall, fourth in rushing and 10th in passing.

Bears' Schedule

REGULAR SEASON

BEARS 41, Cleveland 31

BEARS 13, Philadelphia 10 OT

Mon., Sept. 22 at Green Bay Packers, 8 p.m.
Sun., Sept. 28 at Cincinnati Bengals, Noon
Sun., Oct. 5 MINNESOTA VIKINGS, Noon
Sun., Oct. 12 at Houston Oilers, Noon
Sun., Oct. 19 at Minnesota Vikings, Noon
Sun., Oct. 26 DETROIT LIONS, Noon
Mon., Nov. 3 L.A. RAMS, 8 p.m.
Sun., Nov. 9 at Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Noon
Sun., Nov. 16 at Atlanta Falcons, Noon
Sun., Nov. 23 GREEN BAY PACKERS, Noon
Sun., Nov. 30 PITTSBURGH STEELERS, Noon
Sun., Dec. 7 TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, Noon
Mon., Dec. 15 at Detroit Lions, 8 p.m.
Sun., Dec. 21 at Dallas Cowboys, 3 p.m.

Defense

Continued From Page 11

to go in the new defense when the tight end and flanker cross between them. Tell each other. "I've got this guy, you take him."

"In the heat of the battle, sometimes you revert back to things you did in the past," Tobin said. "New learning is not as entrenched as old learning."

But the new learning is bound to be easier with sacks and hurried interceptions at the end of the rainbow. That's just one more incentive. Not that they needed one.

They always believed they were good enough to make any defensive system work. They never objected when Ryan took so much credit for the success of the last two years. They believed he deserved it. But they knew their guardian angel was casting a shadow on their reputations. Now they know they can prove their playing was at least as good as Ryan's system.

"I think that's what everybody thinks about," Hampton says. "I know I do. If we fall on our face, it was Buddy's system that made us great. I don't think anyone wants to be known as pawns in an excellent scheme. We want to be known as excellent players who can get it done in any type of defense."

Doug's Picks

BEARS by 14 over PACKERS

Chicago has too much talent

BROWNS by SIX over BENGALS

Defense will be the difference

COWBOYS by SEVEN over FALCONS

Dallas has surprised so far

BRONCOS by 10 over EAGLES

Elway will lead Denver

OILERS by FOUR over CHIEFS

Chiefs don't have enough

RAMS by TWO over COLTS

Dickerson won't be stopped

JETS by NINE over DOLPHINS

Not Miami's year

49ERS by SIX over SAINTS

A win with or without Montana

RAIDERS by SEVEN over GIANTS

LA won't blow this one

VIKINGS by 10 over STEELERS

Pittsburgh has it tough coming off Monday night

BILLS by 13 over CARDINALS

Buffalo will be ready for this one

SEAHAWKS by THREE over PATRIOTS

My upset of the week

LIONS by SEVEN over BUCCANEERS

Just can't pick Tampa Bay

REDSKINS by TWO over CHARGERS

Still like Washington

Last week's record: 8-5

Season record: 15-12

NOTE: Doug makes his picks before the opening lines are announced.



Quarterback Mike Tomczak looks for the open receiver during Sunday's game against Philadelphia in Chicago. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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18,000 career yards is Payton's goal

Walter Payton entered the 1986 season with 3,371 carries, 422 more than any other running back in NFL history. Ex-Bear great Gale Sayers thinks that statistic is even more remarkable than the number of yards Payton has gained.

"It's amazing," Sayers said recently. "It's as if the man upstairs said, 'Walter, I'm gonna make you a football player. And for as long as you want to play, you can play.'"

The 32-year-old Payton is in his 12th year. He says one of his goals is reaching the 18,000 yard mark. After the

By
Brian
Hewitt



NFL Notebook

Bears' 41-31 opening victory, Payton was 27 yards short of 15,000.

"When God chose a lot of running back, he chose a lot of Walter Payton," said Bear running backs coach Johnny Roland.

At his current career average of 91.72 yards per game Payton will reach 18,000 in the third game of the 1989 season. He will be 35.

Warns Sayers, "I think if Walter gets his 18,000 yards, he's going to be on his last legs."

•Miami defensive end Doug Betters is still fuming at Dolphin management even though his contract holdout ended when he signed a one-year deal worth \$385,000 in base salary.

"My greatest thrill is that I don't have to talk with (Miami owner) Joe Robbie anymore," Betters said.

Of general manager Mike Robbie, Betters said, "He is the most unprofessional person I have ever talked to in my life."

Asked if he was concerned over damage that would be done by his remarks, Betters said, "I don't give a - - -."

What have I got to lose? I've already lost. I gave it my best shot and lost. The term negotiation is a farce."

•Former Cowboy running back Don Perkins, 48, drives a truck for a living. "No one can encroach on my privacy or thoughts," he says. "I like that."

Perkins played in six Pro Bowls and remains No. 2 on the team's all-time rushing list. But he gets stares when he tells people what he does. "It's as though, 'Oh, you can't get another job so you drive a truck,'" he says. "The fact is I never tried to get another job."

Perkins was a television sports commentator for a while after retiring. But, he says, "the only thing I ever wanted to do more than this was drive a train."

•Only two of the 31 preseason games in which the NFL used the instant replay as an officiating aid actually produced an altered call. Both occurred on the last weekend.

In the Pittsburgh-Giants game a Steeler punt struck a Steeler player at the 27. The officials didn't see it and marked the ball at the 23, where another Steeler downed it. After help from the replay they moved the ball back to the 27.

In New Orleans a Kansas City player was tackled near the goal line after a long pass reception. The original signal was touchdown. But the replay official changed the call, ruling the receiver's knee had touched the ground at the one-yard line. The Chiefs subsequently scored anyway.

•The Rams own the NFL rights to former USFL quarterback Doug Flutie, but don't look for Flutie to play any football this year.

New Jersey Generals owner Donald Trump owes Flutie \$1.3 million for a personal services contract. And league sources say the Rams won't worry about Flutie until next spring, when they plan to shop him around the league prior to the draft.

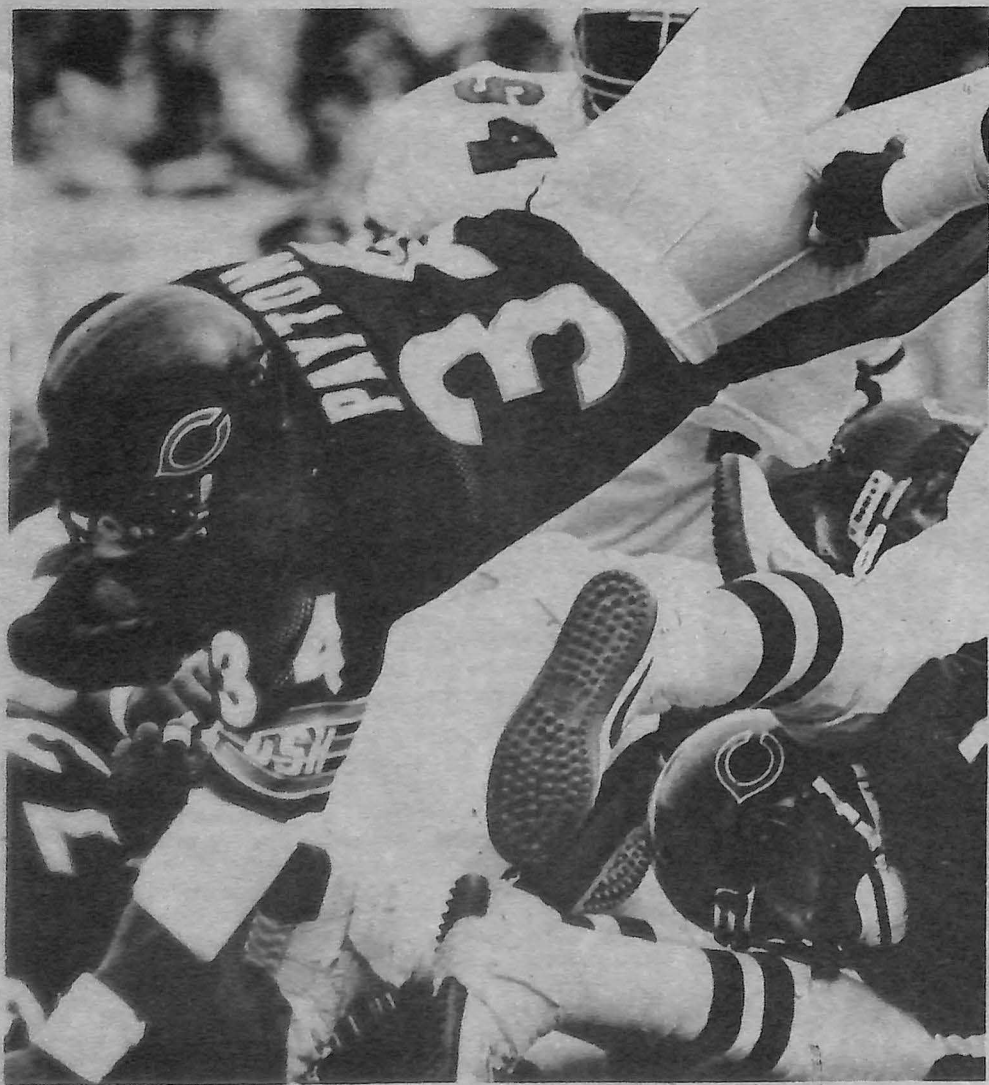
•Indianapolis rookie defensive end Jon Hand, the fourth player chosen in last spring's draft, bench presses only 325 pounds. That's 10 pounds less than 5-11, 190-pound Colt wide receiver Bill Brooks.

In the last three preseason games the 6-7, 283-pound Hand played every defensive down, yet managed just seven tackles, no sacks and no pressures.

When Colt coach Rod Dowhower traded Mike Pagel to Cleveland he said he wanted a higher percentage pass-

er. Colts Gary Hogeboom and Jack Trudeau completed 51.6 and 45.4 percent respectively during the preseason. Pagel's percentage in Cleveland was 63.8.

•NOTES AND QUOTES: Marvin Demoff, agent for quarterback Jim Everett, has admitted talking to the Rams in case he can't cut a deal with the Oilers. Other than Bo Jackson, Purdue's Everett is the last unsigned first-round draft choice. . . . On dealing with the Rams and Oilers, Demoff said, "We talked to two clubs that go shopping for a Mercedes but won't even spend the money for a Volkswagen." . . . Cowboy general manager Tex Schramm on the Cowboys' 0-5 preseason record: "You can say all you want about the fact the losses were practice games that don't count. But the fact remains they are games and the object is to win regardless of whether they're preseason or regular season games. So sure, you have to be concerned." . . . Preseason NFL attendance averaged 48,994, the highest since 1982 and up from last year's 44,233. Preseason television ratings were up on two of three networks. . . . Cowboy offensive lineman Nathaniel "The Kitchen" Newton is 6-3, 330 but says he has no desire to become the next William Perry. "I can run, I can throw and I can catch," he says. "But I don't want to be a full-back. I just want to be a blocker." Newton is the brother of 302-pound Minnesota defensive lineman Tim "The Icebox" Newton. . . . First-year Minnesota coach Jerry Burns was stopped by a security guard trying to enter the Metrodome field recently. Too embarrassed to say he was an unrecognized head coach, Burns said, "I've got a job to do. I'll only be a minute." The guard let him pass. . . . The three quarterbacks on Seattle's 45-man roster — Dave Krieg, Sean Salisbury and Gale Gilbert — are all former free agents. . . . An arbitrator's ruling on NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle's controversial drug-testing program is expected some time in the latter part of next month. . . . Seventeen NFL teams will carry three quarterbacks into the first weekend, 11 will carry two. . . . As of last week there were 294 players on injured reserve compared to 274 at the same time last year. . . . Patriot Andre Tippett on himself: "When it comes to linebackers, I believe I'm the man. I've worked hard and I believe that right now I'm the top linebacker in the league." . . . Recently-retired Patriot all-pro offensive lineman John Hannah on how long it took to realize he did the right thing by getting out of football: "All I have to do is get out of my chair and walk across the room to realize that I could never play football again." Hannah is due for more surgery next month and is hoping for a television commentator's job.



Walter Payton scored his 100th rushing touchdown of his career on this play in the Eagles game Sunday at Soldier Field. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



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Tomczak

Continued From Page 3

"The only thing that bothered me early in the game were the third down situations they made," Ditka said. "They knew when we were in man or zone and they just ran the right route against the defense."

And the reason for that, Ditka said, was Philadelphia was stealing the defensive signs from the Bears.

"They've had a guy here for the last five weeks watching us," he said. "So they ought to know a little bit about us. They didn't watch the game. They just watched our two coordinators sending in the plays."

"I just happened to be the one getting single coverage all the time and he tried throwing it in there," Richardson said. "My initial lineup was hurting me early in the ball game. I took a few steps too deep."

But after he made the right adjustment, Richardson was able to come up with the big plays.

Tomczak nearly had another pass intercepted in the first quarter when he underthrew Dennis Gentry in the end zone. But Gentry was able to prevent the interception, though he was called for pass interference in the process.

Butler then attempted the 38-yard field goal, but it was wide to the right.

In the second quarter after a punt by Maury Buford put the Eagles at their own four-yard line, Chicago's defense stopped Philadelphia at its 12-yard line.

Second interception stops Bears

John Teltschik, released by the Bears this year during training camp, then hit only a 20-yard punt, giving the Bears the ball at the 32.

But Tomczak stopped the offense again by throwing his second interception. This one was picked off by Andre Waters in the end zone.

A penalty cost the Bears another scoring opportunity when the Eagles punted on their next possession. Lew Barnes returned the punt to inside the Philadelphia 20-yard line, but the return was nullified by a penalty on Thomas Sanders for an illegal block. So the Bears had to start from their own 25-yard line.

Chicago had another chance to tie the score before the half, but Butler missed from 46 yards out.

Payton kept the Bears in the game with his running in the second half, and Ditka knew it. He didn't want to stop a good thing, so Payton kept on getting the ball.

"Payton had a hell of a day," Ditka said. "He's just a great football player. I don't want to rely on him that much."

The way we attacked them out of the formation, we just had to."

But with Payton running the way he was, Ditka couldn't have felt that bad about giving Payton the ball.

GAME NOTES: The Bears have won eight of their last nine regular season games against the Eagles. Chicago has dominated the series with a 20-4-1 record against the Eagles. . . . Before the Cleveland game, the last time Chicago allowed 31 points and won was Oct. 17, 1965 when the Bears beat Minnesota, 45-37. The Bears had lost the last 46 times they allowed 31 points or more. Before the Cleveland win, Chicago had won only one of the last 62 games in which it had allowed 28 points or more. That win was last year's 38-28 win over Tampa Bay in the season opener. . . Kevin Butler's 47-yard field goal against the Browns was the longest of his career. . . The Bears are the first defending NFC champion in the last five years to win their opening game. The 49ers lost in 1982 and 1985, and the Redskins dropped openers in 1983 and 1984. . . The Bears have held the time of possession edge in 44 of their last 45 games. Since 1984, the Bears are 26-1 when leading at the half, 21-2 when scoring first. And they've outrushed 41 of their last 45 opponents. . . The 21 points the Bears scored in the first quarter of the Browns' game tied a club record for first quarter points. . . CBS broadcast the Philadelphia game to approximately 70 percent of the country. . . When the Eagles shut out the Bears in the first half Sunday, it was the first time that's happened since Dec. 13, 1984 when San Diego led the Bears 6-0 at halftime. . . Game balls for the Philadelphia game were given to Dave Dueron, Mike Richardson and Walter Payton.

Gault will dance in ballet

The Chicago City Ballet and Better Boys Foundation announced that Chicago Bear wide receiver Willie Gault will dance in a special benefit ballet performance featuring 25 inner-city teenagers and CCB dancers. The ballet, Dreamer's Journey, is being created for the event by choreographer Carmen de Lavallade to Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals" music. Its premiere performance is the culmination of a 10-week summer dance program for inner-city youth sponsored by the BBF in conjunction with the ballet company. The ballet will be presented Sept. 29 at the Francis W. Parker School in Chicago.

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Bear Report Letters

1271 W. Dundee Rd.
Box 89E
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089

BEAR REPORT welcomes all Letters to the Editor. Due to space limitations, it may be necessary to shorten letters to fill the space available. BEAR REPORT does not necessarily agree with the views stated in the letters we receive. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Has Ditka Disappeared?

LOST

Dear Editor,

Coach Mike Ditka. Last seen one year ago as head coach of the Chicago Bears.

DESCRIPTION

Curly headed, fiery tempered, casually dressed man with a caring and emotional attitude on sidelines. Always ready for anything and anybody.

When found, please return to the Chicago Bears as quickly as possible. It seems there is a Landry impersonator on the team now.

Ditka must be found and returned by September 7.

Coach Mike Ditka, where are you? Come back, we need you.
Diane O'Neill
Lisle, IL

Suggestions For The Cover

Dear Editor,

I have a suggestion for the Bear Report. I think the picture on the cover should be of Bears players who starred in the Bears' game that is being covered in that week's Bear Report.

Other than that, I think the Bear Report really covers the Bears games well with articles, pictures and statistics. Keep it up.

Also, I don't think the Bears should abandon the pressure defense on third and fourth downs. That was a big key to the Bears' 1985 success. I also hope Vince Tobin does not leave out the 46 pressure defense like he has in preseason.

I know teams will be a little more ready for it, but I don't think they will be able to handle the Bears' defensive pressure. After all, the Bears obviously have the best defensive unit in the NFL and probably in the world.

Gregory Linsy
Virginia Beach, VA

Editor's note: We'd love to be able to feature a Bears player from that week's game on the cover. Unfortunately, the color photo must be chosen before the game in order to give the printing shop enough time to do their thing with it before the paper goes to print on Monday.

Cardinals Should Be Barred

Dear Doug,

There are a few comments I would like to make regarding the August 23 game between the Bears and St. Louis.

First, during the fight in the third quarter started by St. Louis, the five Cardinal jerks, Lionel Washington, Charlie Baker, Freddie Joe Nunn, Niko Noga, and Ottis Anderson, that kept on kicking the Bears' Pat Dunsmore while he was down with nobody to defend him on the St. Louis sideline, ought to be barred from playing in the NFL for at least one season if not forever by Commissioner Pete Rozelle. The players mentioned represent the criminal element in the NFL and that should not be tolerated. However, it typifies the mentality of St. Louis coach Gene Stallings to resort to anything in order to win, even though it might be illegal.

Second, when, if ever, will Joe Theismann end his verbal assault on the Bears team. He openly criticized William Perry during the half of the Bears-St. Louis game by saying that "Perry should be suspended and fined" for his sack of St. Louis quarterback Lomax. It wasn't Perry's fault because the zebras didn't let him know that the play was over by using the whistle. Theismann believes that the NFL's officials can do no wrong but the Bears always play dirty. And that makes me unbearably mad. He is jealous of the Bears and already has admitted to being jealous of Jim McMahon on February 6, 1986. CBS really has no business having an incompetent such as Theismann commenting on NFL games.

Third, Ditka needs to find a capable backup to Jim McMahon fast. It sure is not Steve Fuller and I will argue that point with anyone. I think during the past two games he has completed something like seven of 27 of his passes and has been sacked for about 40 yards. Fuller looks a lot worse than he did during preseason last year and, in my opinion, he does not look capable of filling in if something happens to Jim McMahon. But, with a little more practice, Mike Tomczak might be able to go during the season in the event of an emergency. However, the health of McMahon is the key to the success of the Bears' offense this season.

Thanks for letting me comment on these matters. A little more time is needed for working on the defense and offense and the Bears will win their division, hopefully with at least a 12-4 record, win the NFC Championship Title once again, and go on to win Super Bow XXI.

Gerard Piccolo
Houston, TX

Continued Next Page



Wilber Marshall recorded a sack on this play when he brought down Eagles quarterback Ron Jaworski. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

More Letters

Continued From Page 14

Arrogant Remarks Get Response

Dear Editor:

I'm sure the smoke has not cleared from John Johnson's ignorant letter. As a lifelong Bear fan once removed to Miami Dolphin territory, I can not tolerate such arrogant remarks concerning such a super team as the Bears.

First of all, the Bears won their championship rings by dominating a good number of quality football teams. For example, Chicago 44, Dallas 0, at Texas Stadium. Hmmm. Hardly sounds like the Chicago Bores to me.

John Madden doesn't think the Bears are boring. Granted, I think John Madden can drive you nuts with his chalkboard. The fact is, John Madden knows a real football team. He especially points out what a character Jim McMahon is. John said he would like a quarterback like McMahon on his team.

Second point, maybe the most important, is that Mike Ditka is a strong minded person who usually gets his way. Mike is one of the premiere coaches in the NFL and deservingly so. Forget Buddy Ryan. He did a super job and deserves all of his accolades. Mike Ditka is the man with all the pressure from upstairs, though.

He got the job done with the help of a very good group of assistant coaches. Tom Landry is finding out what assistant coaches mean to a good football team. Tom has lost quite a few talented men to other NFL clubs. But I still feel that Ditka, despite his lack of years as a head coach, can get a group of athletes to perform with more drive and enthusiasm than Landry.

Mike gets the most out of his players, just like Don Shula, but in a different way. I can't see how the defending champions in a sport such as football could lack the guts to show up to face America's Team.

Third point, the Bear Report is a newspaper devoted exclusively to the Bears and the NFL. The Bears have no financial "bearing" on the paper. Doug Buffone puts out a paper that us long distance fans gladly read and enjoy.

It sure feels good to be at the top and hear how other fans respond to being in the lower section, as in Dallas, Texas. The so called America's Pretenders represent the determination and backbone of their followers.

Mark A. Sacco
Vero Beach, FL

Portable Radio Keeps Soldier In Tune

Dear Doug,

It seems to me that for a great number of people, the success of the 1985 Bears has been, to an extent, lost in the glitter and glitz that surrounded the team before and after the Super Bowl. There are people who worry that the team has "gone Hollywood," and won't be hungry enough to repeat anything near last year's performance. I hope what I have to say may change some minds.

I've been a long distance Bear fan ever since I discovered them, through my father, at the age of 11. I am a native Chicagoan, but was raised primarily in the south — North Carolina to be exact. When you live that far away from the Chicago market, you can't be a lazy fan and expect to keep up. My father and I studied the rosters, rated the depth charts of every team, and plotted, planned and hoped for ways the Bears could become the team we always dreamed they would be. One of the best things my father ever gave me (and he gave me some good things, too) was the obsession with the Bears that has been a part of my life for 12 years. I take great pride in it. Let's be honest. Just how many of you remember Cyril Pinder?

In 1984, I joined the United States Army, and since March of '85 I've been a tank driver and a border operator with the Second Armoured Cavalry Regiment here in Germany. It's a demanding job that keeps us on the border and away from home about six months out of the year. And the cavalry doesn't take into account football seasons.

Last year my dream came true, but the hitch is that I did not get a chance to witness it. I saw two games, the Minnesota thriller and the Jets game. And you have to stay up pretty late to watch football on Armed Forces Network with the time delay.

I missed out on the glitter. I missed out on the glitz. I have neither heard nor seen the Super Bowl Shuffle. I've never seen a commercial with either William Perry or Jim McMahon in it. And I've never regretted it.

I didn't witness media hype. I witnessed the best football team since the old days of the Pittsburgh Steelers. My dreams came true over an old portable radio in two border camps just a few miles from East Germany. I wasn't fortunate enough to see them win those playoff games or the Super Bowl, yet I was fortunate enough to witness, via radio, something I had always hoped for. Not just an NFL championship, but also the kind of team that the players I've followed and admired for so many years deserve.

So if you're worried that Perry won't be the player he was, or that Payton's over the hill, or that McMahon is going to flake out of this dimension after being on the cover of Rolling Stone, stop. These guys didn't get here on their looks. They are professionals, individuals and men of character. Nobody deserves to win more than they.

I won't be sitting in front of a television next year either, as I'll be back at the border for the month of January. But I want any Bear players who ever read this to know that when you win that next Super Bowl, I'll be pressing my ear against my portable radio, celebrating with and for you. Best of luck, all 45 of you.

SP/4 Daniel Conover
Bindlach, West Germany

P.S. Thanks to Matt Suhey for coming over to meet the troopers.

Slick Style Not Necessary For Bear Report

Dear Editor,

John Johnson may be talking when he should be listening, or rather, writing when he should be reading. For me and many other readers of Bear Report it will not be necessary to use slick paper and a hard cover. I see the typical Cowboy fan here. Each game is a social event. The men dress like Tom Landry or wear tuxedos. The women won't even attend unless they are sure their mink coat is going to look more expensive than the one in the neighboring box. And one can always find out what happened in the game itself by reading the next day's newspaper.

Despite the well known fact that the visiting team has to play against the Cowboys and the officials in Texas Stadium, I believe I could scare up a buck or two from other Bear fans if Mr. Johnson is really serious about his prediction of the outcome of the Dec. 21 game here. I'm in the book, John — or were you joking?

Which brings me a question or two which I have asked before but never had answered. The league office answered my letter but not my questions. Only double talk and goobelygook. When did the Cowboys last play in Chicago? How many times have the Bears and Cowboys met since Dallas entered the league? How many times at Chicago? I go back a long way as a Bear fan and either my recall is weakening or it is very lopsided. Why? Is there any rhyme or reason to the scheduling, or do they have to consult with Commissioner Schramm before making a move?

Like other old time Bear and Halas fans we have had our happy years and years when the lumps appeared too often. No one could have been any happier about 1985 than I was. Well, maybe the ones who got quick rich and maybe even the players who didn't. But the Dallas massacre here was something I won't forget — ever. I hope Ditka-Tobin will be as successful as Ditka-Ryan, which is a tough assignment but certainly possible. My best wishes to Bear Report and the Bears to continue doing what you're doing and for the bounces to favor our side during the season.

Tom Sanders
Dallas, TX

Editor's note: The Cowboys last played in Chicago in 1984, a 23-14 win by Dallas. It was Dallas' first appearance in Chicago since 1973. The Bears and Cowboys have met 12 times since 1960, with Dallas holding an 8-4 lead in the series. The teams have met six times in each city. The Bears are 2-4 in games played in Chicago, and 2-4 in games played in Dallas. One of the meetings was in the 1977 NFC divisional playoffs, with the Cowboys winning in Dallas, 37-7. The NFL does have a system it uses to set up the schedule each year, though I am not sure exactly how it works.

Fridgeman Hits Ohio

Dear Doug,

I have been a Bear fan many, many years and have been caught up in Fridgeman. As you can see in the photo, my new dog is, of course, called the Fridge. Also, my new Ohio vanity license plate also shows "The Fridge." I have been subscribing to the Bear Report for over five years. Keep up the good work.

Jim Macksam
Fairfield, OH



Fridgeman has hit Jim Macksam of Ohio, who is leaning on his car with his dog, the Fridge.

European Football Wants Attention

Dear Doug,

After reading the Bear Report comments about the trip to London, I felt a bit disappointed. Do you guys realize up there what it means for Europeans to have two (or at least one) top team(s) come to Europe and play a game? In the States football is the number one sport, with sponsors and those kind of things. In Europe we have to develop everything ourselves with only four years experience; small wonder we copy the NFL plays.

We have to buy our own equipment and it takes a long time to raise 1,000 guilders so people are not filling to join the teams. But there are already 40,000 players and I'm happy to be one of them.

But we could use some attention and support from the other side of the big water. This weekend we had the first European club championships (Eurobowl I), but there wasn't an American magazine that paid any attention and neither did the Bear Report. Our quality may not be as high as in the States (neither is my English), but that is growing.

For the rest, Bear Report is great, and I'm glad to be among the happy few subscribers in Holland and the rest of Europe, though sometimes I have some difficulties with terms like "Vanilla Defense," but that will be developed too, I hope.

Please publish my address so I can write with some Bears fans. Hope the Bears will be winning another Super Bowl with you to cover it.

Dirk-Willem Poot
Oostkeetshaven 11
3332 TD Zwijndrecht
The Netherlands
Europe

Editor's note: Vanilla defense means a very simple, basic kind of defense, just like vanilla flavoring is very plain and basic. If you need any other meanings clarified don't hesitate to write. We love hearing from Europe. And as far as covering games in Europe, I'm afraid that wouldn't be practical for us. The accounting department might have fits if I turned in \$5,000 expense vouchers.

Writer Should Eat Crow

Dear Editor:

Another year has gone by and another good draft has been made. The Bears are the NFL champions and many long suffering Bear fans like myself are savoring the season.

I would like to see a full page picture of your writer, who said the Bears should sign Todd Bell and Al Harris, eating crow. I don't remember who it was, but he said if the Bears win the Super Bowl just forget what he said. I didn't forget. If the Bears had lost the Super Bowl, I'm sure he would be crowing. He could share the page with Buddy Ryan, who talked about the importance of signing Bell and Harris. Yet when he had a chance to trade for them before the 1986 draft, he ignored them.

He said Bell was the most important player on defense so I would have thought he would have done everything within reason to obtain him. I would think that he would try to trade for both players before preseason camp got too far underway.

I'm sure the value has gone down and if he gave up draft choices, he could play them for a year without any cost. Perhaps he doesn't have all the authority he said he has.

Also, could you please tell me which present coaches were with the Bears before Mike Ditka came?

Red Munsterman
Cissna Park, IL

Editor's note: The only coaches still on the staff from the pre-Ditka era are defensive backs coach Jim LaRue and offensive line coach Dick Stanfel.

Gault

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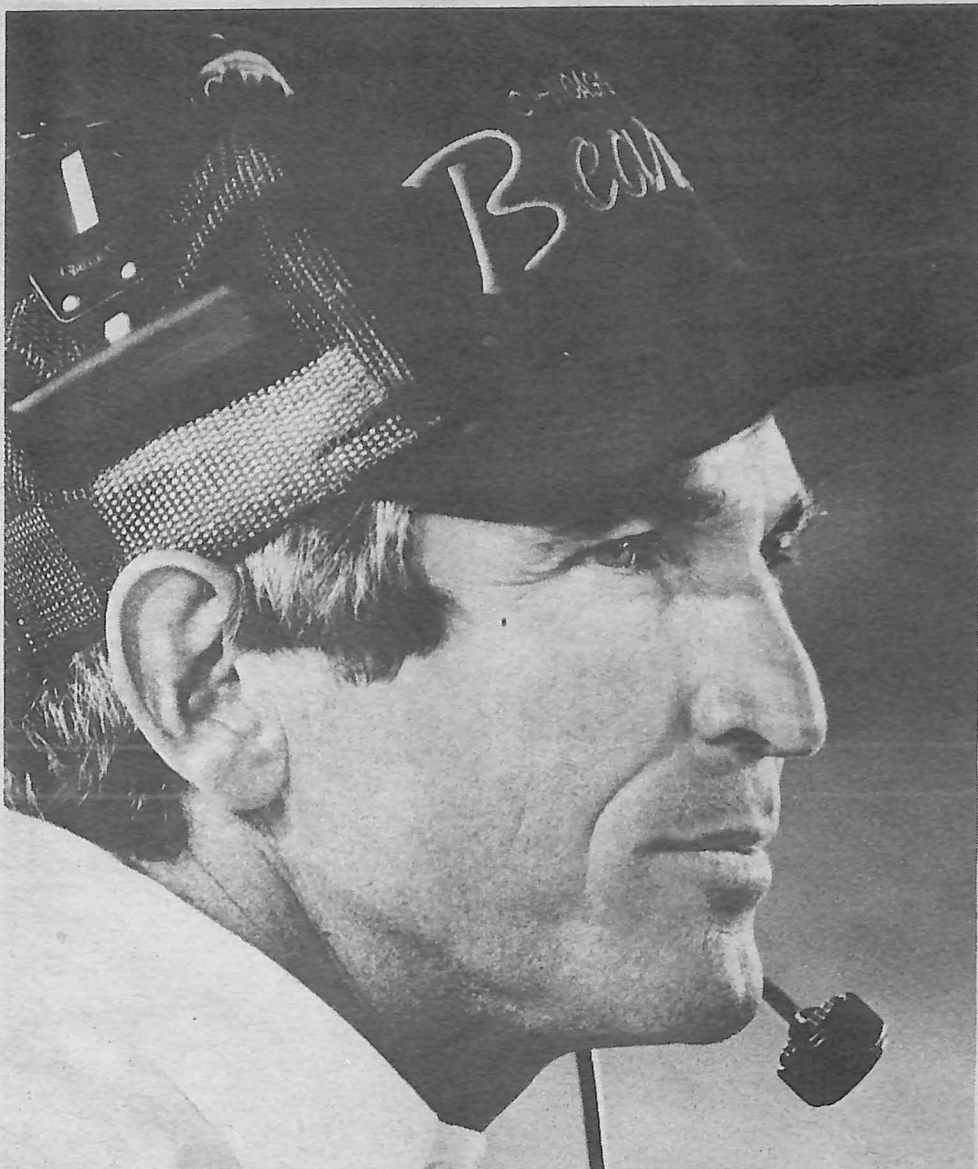
The performance will combine ballet with the popular rap poetry, which will be written by the youths. They also will design their own costumes, build the sets and dance in the performance.

The program marks the first collaboration between the Better Boys Foundation and the Chicago City Ballet, as well as Gault's ballet debut.

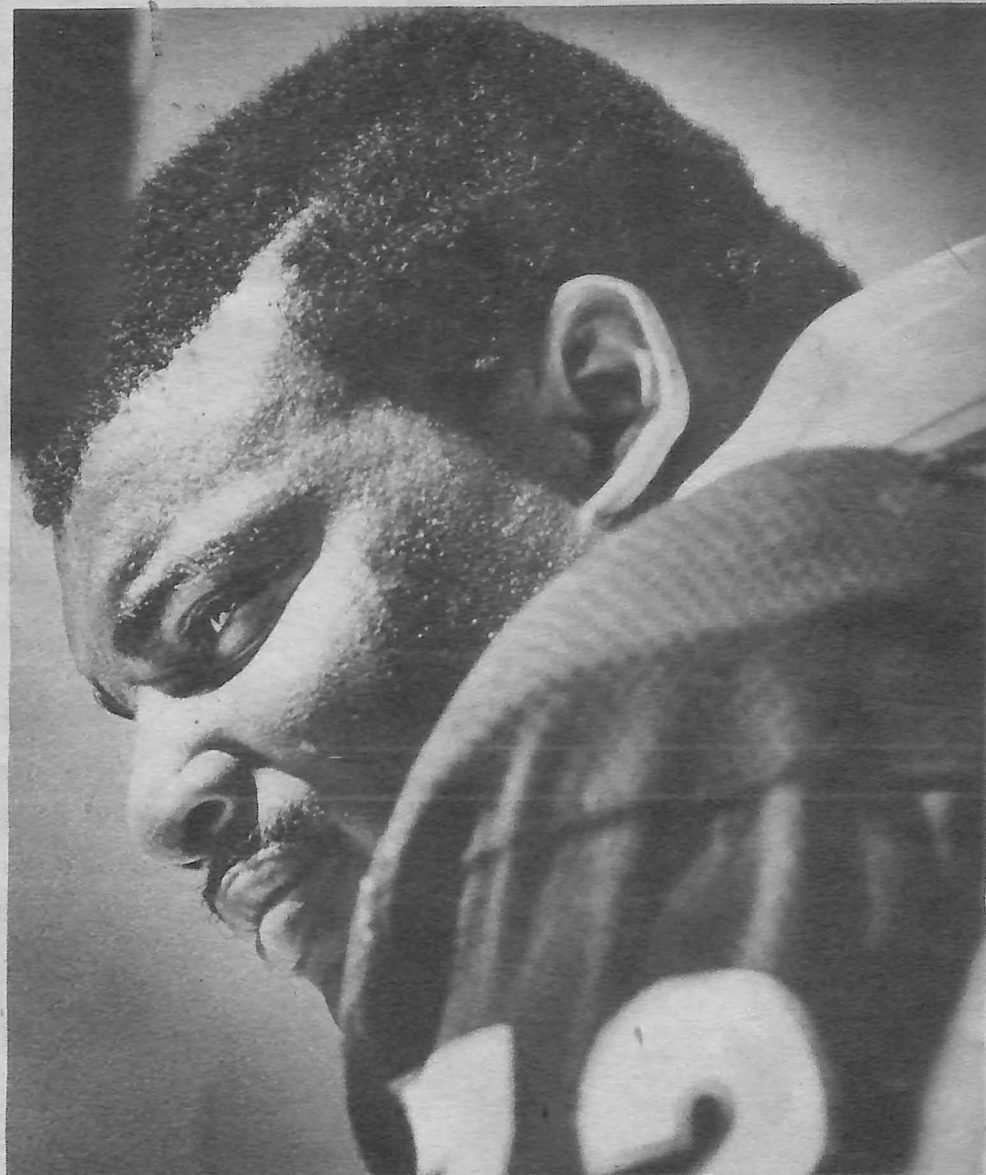
"Willie Gault is known for his agility, quickness and finesse on the football field. He's also a world-class hurdler, and all those skills are related to and adaptable for ballet," said CCB president Charles Gardner. "He'll add a unique dimension to this one-of-a-kind performance and serve as an inspiration — balletically, athletically and in terms of creative teamwork — to the young people dancing with him."

A limited number of tickets for the performance will be available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis for \$25 and \$50. Proceeds from the performance will go to support the CCB and BBF.

The Chicago City Ballet was founded in 1980 to provide a home for the development and enhancement of classical ballet in the Midwest. It is the city's only professional ballet company. The Better Boys Foundation is a multi-social service agency which provides services to enrich the quality of life for residents of North Lawndale.



Defensive coordinator Vince Tobin keeps a sharp eye on his squad during the game. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)



William Perry takes a rest on the bench during the second half of Sunday's game against the Eagles. (Bear Report photo by Jonathan Daniel)

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Perry heads back to GB

Preview begins
on page 8



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